

THE JOURNAL

November 29, 2002

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Inside West County Reads wants your new and used books [A5]

Arts Word for Word brings Steinbeck's 'Cannery Row' to life [C3]


BRIGGS visits with conductor Bill Dike at the Emeryville Amtrak station, where station host Briggs helps confused passengers rework Amtrak staff. It's a program she invented.

Amtrak aficionado keeps a'rollin' along

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

Monday morning, Al and the Fairy of Castro Valley at the Amtrak station in Emeryville, and they had that the-headlights look in eyes.

They were waiting to board California Zephyr to Reno to celebrate their 60th anniversary, they couldn't figure out the coach was theirs. Then a woman in a bright red coat, a red shirt and conductor's hat as he said, "Can I help you?"

Within a minute, she located the coach and helped them board. The conductor, Mel Jack, broke into a big smile as he saw her.

"Miss Doras!" he said. "On the job, I see!"

She is Doras Briggs, the best at a puzzled passenger or a station agent ever had.

MORE INFORMATION

Want to be a Station Host? Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Station Host Program, 116 Kenyon St., Kensington CA, 94708-1027. Briggs will send you an application form and more information.

Briggs is a station host, a job she invented. When she's not answering questions like "Where are the sleeping cars?" or "How do I get to BART?" she's replacing outdated timetables, picking up loose trash, and keeping an eye out for any safety problems station agent Charles Barton might want to know about.

"She's a big, big help," says Barton, who sees 450,000 travelers pass through his station every year. "She makes our job much easier."

"There's no pay and no perks. It's a labor of love — love for people first, and also a love for railroads."

— Doras Briggs

Briggs has been in love with railroads ever since July 4, 1923, when her father took her for a ride on the Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Northern Line in her native Iowa to celebrate her fifth birthday. It was only a seven-mile trip, but she was hooked for life.

She moved to California and worked for the University of California in the vice president's office for 27 years. For 19 of them

she was also the associate chimesmistress on the University's Campanile bells.

In 1990, her husband, Robert, died. "I decided I could sit home and feel sorry for myself," she says, "or I could do something worthwhile."

Since she and Robert had always loved trains, she decided to dedicate her life to strengthening the nation's passenger rail service. On March 1, 2001, she founded the Station Host Program to, as she puts it, "fill the gap between the passengers, who have lots of questions, and the people behind the counter, who are often overworked."

She recruited, screened, trained and monitored each volunteer. Today, there are 35 station hosts working at four terminals: Oakland, Emeryville, Martinez and Sacramento. And

See BRIGGS, Page A10

Season spirit may extend to curbside

■ Albany is considering 2-hour parking on Solano for December

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — In an effort to boost business on the city's main streets, the City Council is considering allowing two-hour parking on Solano and San Pablo avenues on Saturdays in December.

The council is to vote Dec. 2 on the extension.

If the longer limit is embraced and succeeds in increasing foot traffic in Albany's central business district, it could be adopted permanently.

Albany Chamber of Com-

merce executive director James Carter said the two-hour parking extension will help struggling businesses, such as restaurants, get more traffic from people who are deserting Solano Avenue for areas where free, unlimited parking is abundant.

"We're hoping that by extending parking limits, people will have the option to do more than one thing," Carter said.

Traffic and safety commission chairwoman Lubov Mazur said the extended parking limit is favored by businesses where people spend more than an hour, such as restaurants, hair salons and chiropractors.

See PARKING, Page A10

Eastshore park hearing, tour set

By Jose A. Lopez
STAFF WRITER

After nearly two years of planning and debate, the State Park and Recreation Commission is expected to determine next week whether to approve the documents that would turn a large chunk of East Bay waterfront land and Bay waters into a state park.

The commission will hold a public hearing in Berkeley, and after giving the public an opportunity to comment, the commissioners may move on a staff recommendation to approve the preliminary general plan and the Environmental Impact Report for the Eastshore State Park.

The proposed park includes more than 2,200 acres of land,

most of it covered by water. The area runs parallel to Interstate 80 to the east, stretching through five cities from the northern border of Oakland to the Richmond Marina.

The general plan would serve as a blueprint for the creation of the park, detailing the types of activities and uses allowed in the different areas. The plan does not, however, green-light the projects, each of which must go through a separate planning process.

"The plan sets up a recipe of what we're going to do in the park for the next 20 to 30 years," says Robin Ettinger, the project manager.

See EASTSHORE, Page A10

Assistant administrator Ritzma to leave Albany

New position will let her get closer to home

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — After seven years of contributions, Ann Ritzma, the city's assistant city administrator, is leaving to work for the city of San Bruno. Her last day is Monday, Dec. 2.

"We're going to miss her. She's a tremendous asset both in experience and commitment,"

City Councilman Allan Ritzma said. "She's got a lot of commitment and lots of talent."

Ritzma came to Albany in 1995 as a public information officer and to work on city projects for the City Council.

She took on many different positions within the city since then, and her staff positions were

requested for employees leaving to work for dot-com companies.

During her contributions was working on the Eastshore Free-

way/Buchanan Street connection, which opened this year and has set the stage for development in that area. She worked as a media relations and public works person for the Solano Avenue improvement project in 1998 and 1999.

She drafted the ordinance language that got the homeless off the Albany bulb and then helped find them homes, she recalled. She also organized the planning process that resulted in the future vision plan for San Pablo Avenue.

Ritzma also filled in during staff vacancies. At different times, she served as the interim community development director, the recreation and community services director and the interim finance director.

"As people left the organization, I ended up filling the positions, for anywhere from three months to a year and a half," said Ritzma.

Ritzma grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah and earned bachelor of science degrees in both forestry and recreation from

See RITZMA, Page A10

Albany's top cop settles into the job

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — After a six-month search, the City Council named Greg Bone as the city's first appointed police chief. Bone has worked for the department for 25 years.

Now five weeks into his new job, Bone said he's committed to making himself and the department available to the community, having a good working relationship with city staff and other police agencies, and making improvements within the department.

In a city with a low crime rate, Bone, 51, is overseeing a police department with 28 sworn officers and seven civilian employees and is the first police chief in the city to work under the city administrator and City Council. He will be paid \$96,096 a year.

"We have a person who is doing a wonderful job, who would not qualify to be a police chief under our elected program," said Councilman Jon Ely. "The whole idea was to expand the pool of candidates to get the best candidate."

Until 2001, Albany was one of two cities in the state to have an elected police chief. Candidates had to meet a range of requirements, including having to live in Albany. A Moraga resident for 25 years, Bone would have been barred from the top job if it were still elected.

Voters changed the charter last year to make the chief an appointed position.

Lt. Mike McQuiston said the relationship has improved between the police department and other city departments, as the result of the chief being appointed and reporting to the city administrator. Under an elected chief, he said, it was a sometimes adversarial relationship.

"It's a definite positive turn for the agency. There's no question in my mind about that or in the minds of the people I work with," said McQuiston, who was recently promoted by Bone to oversee the city's patrol division, a ranking second only to the police chief, and one held by Bone for 11 years.

Bone was raised in Berkeley, El Cerrito and Kensington and



GREG BONE is a 25-year veteran of the Albany Police Department.

earned a bachelor's degree in political science from UC Berkeley in 1974. He developed an interest in criminal law while attending Armstrong Law School in Berkeley and became a volunteer reserve officer in Albany in 1976.

He was hired as a patrol officer for the city in 1977 and from there rose up the ranks, finally promoted to lieutenant in 1991. Married in 1974, he has two grown children.

"It's a challenge and logical

progression and at the same time gives me a chance to completely make decisions here," said Bone of his most recent promotion.

For the last five weeks however, Bone has been spending up to six days a week, 14 hours a day, at his new job. His first order of business: staffing.

First, he convinced three officers, who were threatening to leave to Napa to stay on board.

See CHIEF, Page A10

Movie magic

■ El Cerrito's not the first city to think of restoring an old single-screen theater. Page A4

Library column

■ Chess is instructional on many levels. Page A5



Martin Snapp

■ There's a reason the food's better at Yale's Berkeley College. Page A3

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IN BRIEF

Albany

Traveling storyteller drops by the library

The Friends of the Albany Library present Joel Ben Izzy, the "traveling storyteller," in an annual holiday family program at the Albany Library. The free event is at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Berkeley

North Shattuck music series set

The North Shattuck Association is sponsoring a Holiday Music Series every Saturday afternoon through Dec. 21. There will be free entertainment, gourmet foods and unique gifts from the shops and restaurants located along North Berkeley's Shattuck Avenue and Vine Street. Local musicians and singers will perform at various locations throughout the business district, including jazz, classical, rock, calypso, and more.

The Holiday Music Series is sponsored by the North Shattuck Association, a recently formed business improvement district. All events are free. Donations for the Alameda County Community Food Bank will be accepted at all events. Details: 510-540-6444.

Richmond

Residents reminded to get flu shots

With flu season just around the corner, East Bay health officials are reminding residents that flu shots are still available from private health providers, at many drug stores and at low-cost flu shot clinics.

The closest location for flu clinics for El Cerrito residents is the Public Health Department, 39th Street and Bissell Avenue, in Richmond. For more information, call 510-231-8555.

County public health clinics are also offering \$5 flu shots every Friday afternoon through Dec. 27, except Friday when clinics will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. For more information about times and locations of these clinics, call 925-313-6469. Pneumonia vaccines and tetanus shots also are available for \$10 at those times and locations. Fees can be waived for those unable to pay.

El Cerrito

Students plant tree in teacher's memory

A tree-planting ceremony, with student presentations, will be held Dec. 6, from 2 to 2:30 p.m. at Castro Elementary School, 7125 Donal Ave., in memory of long-time teacher Judith Lohstroh.

Lohstroh, who taught third grade, and fiancé Christopher Lombardo, died in a small plane crash Aug. 19 near Echo Summit after vacationing at Lake Tahoe. For more information, call 510-234-6200.

Stations to get reserved parking program

Beginning Sunday, BART is launching a monthly reserved parking program at the Del Norte and El Cerrito Plaza BART stations. Customers will have the option of purchasing a monthly parking permit that guarantees them a space in a designated lot up to 10 a.m. each weekday.

After 10 a.m., spaces not used by permit holders will be available for anyone. BART police will enforce the monthly permit requirements and issue parking citations for vehicles without the permits. There will be a \$25 fine for violators.

BART will set aside about 10 percent of the existing spaces in existing parking lots for the monthly reserved parking program. Depending upon demand, as much as 25 percent of the parking spaces will be designated for permits. The remaining parking will continue to remain free to BART customers on a first-come, first-serve basis. The program does not reduce the number of existing parking spaces, according to BART. The permits cost \$63 per month. For information about purchasing a monthly parking permit go online at www.bart.gov or call 800-676-1611.

'Nutcracker' comes to pancake breakfast

The city's Holiday Pancake Breakfast, toy drive and "Nutcracker" puppet show, sponsored by the El Cerrito Recreation Department, will be held Dec. 7, at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. The breakfast will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the puppet show at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$8 per person and includes the show.

Residents are encouraged to bring a new unwrapped toy to donate for local children. The toy barrel is provided by the El Cerrito Fire Department. Tickets can be purchased at the community center or charged by phone at 510-215-4370.

High school book club will meet

The El Cerrito High School Book Club, the Page Turners, will meet Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., at El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury Ave., room 604. The group will discuss "Black, White and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self," by Rebecca Walker. The discussion will be led by students. Details: Paula Gocker, 510-525-0234.

Kensington

Library presents show by young magician

Alex Gonzalez, a 17-year-old magician, will perform at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., on Dec. 7, at 10:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. For more information, call 510-524-3043.

Saturday is story time for families

Family story time is held at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., every Saturday morning, except Dec. 7, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. For more information, call 510-524-3043.

ALBANY POLICE

Monday, Nov. 18

■ **DISTURBANCE** — Officers responded to the 1300 block of Solano Avenue on reports of three to four people fighting, yelling and swearing in an apartment courtyard. It appeared to be a family argument; no action was taken. Called again, officers cited and released a 40-year-old Albany man who reportedly had become physically violent with his 17-year-old son.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

■ **REVOKED LICENSE** — Officers arrested a 32-year-old Richmond woman in the south lot at Golden Gate Fields for driving with a revoked driver's license. The passenger, a 21-year-old El Cerrito man, was found to have two no bail warrants and two \$10,000 warrants from Contra Costa County. He was arrested and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

Wednesday, Nov. 20

■ **DRUG POSSESSION** — About 6:30 a.m. the driver of a red '93 Ford Escort was involved in a non-injury accident near Washington Avenue and Adams Street and fled when he saw officers. Officers stopped the vehicle and arrested the driver, a 19-year-old Richmond man, for failure to yield, speeding and two drug possession charges. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ **VANDALISM** — During the night, vandals spray-painted graffiti on the east and south walls of the Club House at Terrace Park. There were no witnesses.

■ **VEHICLE BREAK-INS** — Two '01 Honda Accords, one unlocked, were broken into while parked on the 900 block of Neilson Street. There were no witnesses.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — During the night, thieves stole a green '85 Toyota Cressida that was parked on the 800

block of Polk Street.

■ **VEHICLE BREAK-IN** — About 9 p.m. a resident on the 1400 block of Solano Avenue reported that about one hour prior thieves broke into her white '02 Chevrolet pickup that was parked in the parking garage. There were no witnesses.

Thursday, Nov. 21

■ **DUI** — About 2:30 a.m. officers stopped a white '94 Jeep Cherokee near Kains and Solano Avenues for erratic driving. The driver, a 20-year-old Albany woman, was found to be intoxicated. She failed the field sobriety test with a score of .21. She was arrested for DUI, being a person under 21 who was DUI and for having a prior conviction. She was cited and released.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — During the night, thieves stole a white '88 Toyota pickup parked near Solano Avenue and Jackson Street. There were no witnesses.

■ **BIKE THEFT** — An Albany man reported that thieves had stolen his yellow specialized sport bike from inside his unlocked white '02 Mazda four-door. There were no witnesses.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A resident on the 1500 block of Posen Avenue reported that thieves had burglarized his blue Ford Ranger. There were no witnesses.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — About 10:15 p.m. a resident on the 1400 block of Posen Avenue reported that thieves had stolen her green '99 Volvo SW within the previous hour. There were no witnesses. The resident called again just before midnight to report that someone had parked the vehicle back in front of her residence. She did not see anyone.

Friday, Nov. 22

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — Shortly after midnight, officers stopped a red '00 Pontiac at the

EL CERRITO POLICE

Thursday, Nov. 14

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — A woman was arrested at 2 a.m. at Cutting Boulevard and South 50th Street on suspicion of being in possession of a vehicle reported stolen to the Walnut Creek Police Department. The woman was stopped for a traffic violation. It was learned that the woman was the girlfriend of the registered owner and had a misdemeanor warrant for her arrest. She was released with a citation for the warrant.

■ **VEHICLE BREAK-IN** — The inside of a Toyota Camry was ransacked at 3:15 a.m. The right rear window of the vehicle was smashed, causing the alarm to go off. There was no lost property.

Saturday, Nov. 16

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A 1981 Toyota pickup truck was recovered after it was stolen from the 800 block of Parkway Drive in Richmond between 5 p.m. on Nov. 16 and 6:30 a.m. the next day. The vehicle was found a few blocks away.

■ **VEHICLE STOLEN** — A 1987 Ford Bronco was stolen from the 800 block of Balra Drive between 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 16 and 10 a.m. the next day.

Sunday, Nov. 17

■ **VEHICLE STOLEN** — A 1987 Chrysler Lebaron was stolen from the 2000 block of Key Boulevard between 6:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.

■ **VEHICLE STOLEN** — A 1987 Toy-

ota Camry was stolen from the 300 block of Pomona Avenue between 9:45 p.m. on Nov. 17 and 12:30 a.m. the next day.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A stolen 1982 Toyota Celica was recovered by a police officer at 12:05 p.m. at Carlson Boulevard and Tehama Street.

Monday, Nov. 18

■ **VEHICLE BREAK-IN** — A purse was stolen from a Mercedes on the 6700 block of Canyon Trail at 8:30 a.m. The right front window had been smashed, causing the car alarm to go off.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

■ **ROBBERY** — Two men robbed a cash register at Target at 9:49 p.m. One man told the cashier, "Don't make any noise or scream to get attention and you will not get hurt," and showed off a silver semi-automatic gun. The other man removed \$400 from the register. A third man was seen with the others and they all ran off with the money.

■ **VEHICLE BREAK-IN** — A stereo and other items were stolen from a Ford Explorer inside a garage on the 3000 block of Carlson Boulevard between midnight and 7:45 a.m. The driver's door had been forced open.

■ **THEFT** — A television and cordless drill were stolen from a detached recreation room at the rear of a home on the 3400 block of Belmont Avenue between midnight on Nov. 19 and 6 p.m. on Nov. 13. The sliding glass door to the room was unlocked.

Buchanan Interchange for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 32-year-old Berkeley man, was found to have two outstanding warrants from Berkeley for drug charges totaling \$2,085. He was arrested and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Officers stopped a tan '85 GMC for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 45-year-old Oakland man, was found to have outstanding No Ball warrant from Berkeley for several counts of petty theft. He was arrested and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — During the night, thieves broke into a blue '86 Honda Accord parked in a garage on the 400 block of Stannage Avenue and stole a tote bag from the trunk.

■ **ROBBERY** — Officers are investigating a strong-arm robbery that occurred near Portland and Masonic Avenue about 3 p.m. the day prior. The attacker was described as a black male, about 17 years old, with short hair, about 6 feet tall, weighing 150 pounds and wearing blue jeans and a blue puff jacket.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A Berkeley woman reported that thieves had stolen her white '86 Toyota pickup that was parked at 555 Pierce Street. There were no witnesses.

■ **DUI** — About 11 p.m. officers responded to a report of a possible intoxicated driver seen leaving a bar on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue in a gray '88 Jeep. Officers stopped the vehicle and arrested the driver, a 59-year-old Richmond man, for DUI and hit and run. He was cited and released.

Saturday, Nov. 23

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A resident on the 1100 block of Brighton Avenue reported that thieves had stolen his gray '85 Honda Accord. There were no witnesses.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — Thieves stole a red '90 Honda Civic belonging to a

Hercules man that was parked on San Pablo Avenue and Ch...

Sunday, Nov. 24

■ **DUI** — At about 2 a.m. officers stopped a gold '97 Honda near Marin and Stannage Ave. for a traffic citation. The driver, a 32-year-old Berkeley man, was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested, cited and released. He was towed.

Monday, Nov. 25

■ **DISTURBANCE** — Officers arrested a 50-year-old man on the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue who was intoxicated and causing a disturbance. He was cited and released.

■ **VANDALISM** — A resident on Pierce Street reported that at a.m. vandals broke her window. She did not see the vandals but did hear running footsteps. The damage was gone when officers arrived.

Summary

During the week of Nov. 18, officers towed four vehicles, responded to five alarms, attended to one meal, assisted two people who were locked out of their homes, responded to three reports of dogs. In the domestic violence unit, 127 civil assists. Officers cited 64 citations and 83 warrants. Firefighter/paramedics responded to one fire call and two medical emergencies.

Groups receive funds for literacy project

STAFF REPORTS

First Five Contra Costa County agency also known as the Contra Costa Children and Family Commission, awarded \$10,000 in Proposition 10 funds to community-based organizations to support programs that promote reading to children to age 5.

"Ready, Set, Read!" grants provide resources to projects that encourage parents and caregivers to read aloud to their children and young children. Brenda Blasingame, executive director of First Five Contra Costa, said, "Research shows that reading aloud often has a profound impact on a child's development and can increase understanding of language and vocabulary, help build a foundation for learning."

Nonprofit organizations that provide individual library branches, adult school programs, profit child care centers received \$3,000 grants while family child care providers awarded \$1,500 grants. Literacy grants will be used to purchase books, develop home garden transition materials, libraries and conduct literacy events such as story

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HAVE YOU SEEN THIS STRAY CAT?

Small thin, black and gray tabby lost in North Berkeley/Tilden area.
Please call 510-525-0672

Lifelong correspondence holds a wealth of history

BERNICE EVELYN BYLAND was suggested to me because she has lived through so much history in her years.

As we chatted, we both realized that her very full life had been affected only in small ways by the tumultuous last century.

During the Depression, she was able to afford only one notebook in high school, because they cost \$1 each.

In World War II, she had a job in the Teachers Corps and worked in the service.

Technology? Well, that did have an impact, and she and her husband used computers a great deal for his work and for their activities in and out of their church.

But one other thing happened during those years, and it was remarkable. Bernice Byland and her beloved cousin, Dorothy, wrote often and extensively, covering every subject, family, friends, church, and the events of the day.

And, for some reason, Bernice kept copies of all the letters she wrote to Dorothy, from 1920 to 2000.

Her granddaughter, Dina Campana Smith, and her nephew, Mike, recognized the wealth of history contained in these letters, have put them together in a very large book, which they entitled "Letters to Dorothy."

It is a private book, made for Bernice only. But she allowed me to borrow it. I discovered a wealth of love, candor and sharing, though the world was a small part of the correspondence.

In a letter of April 5, 1968: "I wish and I just finished writing the news on TV, and tragedy of last evening has shed all other news into the pages."

Today the flags have flown half-mast and throughout the Bay Area. Memorial services have been held for Martin Luther King. It has been said that private citizen has paid such a tribute."

She continues, speaking of "who has paved the way for reconciliation in the white and black people in this country."

May 21, 1968, she writes: "Radio, television, news, magazines and mail are



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

full of information about the political candidates. Many voters are crossing party lines. We can only hope the man elected will be the right man as it is our feeling that within the next five years the United States will be tested for its greatness."

June 11, 1968, she wrote: "Everyone, regardless of political slant, has felt the sorrow of the death of this young man. There has been much fear expressed over the state of our nation, and presently individuals and groups are trying to get stronger regulative laws on gun control. Personally, I feel that there is entirely too much 'hate' broadcast over television and radio. We are becoming too accustomed to violence in every form. We scream at immorality, but overlook violent death."

The "young man" is, of course, Robert Kennedy, shot down in Los Angeles a few days before.

A letter of May 7, 1973, speaks of Watergate, and of sending a copy of a letter written by a local clergyman to the president and Congress asking that "you promote the peace and tranquility of our nation through the exercise of a forgiving spirit."

And there are the events in the lives of relatives who adopt an African-American child, and the "South African crisis" and her feeling that, "If you can keep people uneducated, you can keep them in a state of servitude."

The book is full of such riches. What a great thing for family and friends, and what a lovely thing for a granddaughter to do. Thank you, Nancy Hayes, for suggesting Bernice Byland to me.

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? If so, please write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

Board may fudge on text tally

By Kara Shire
STAFF WRITER

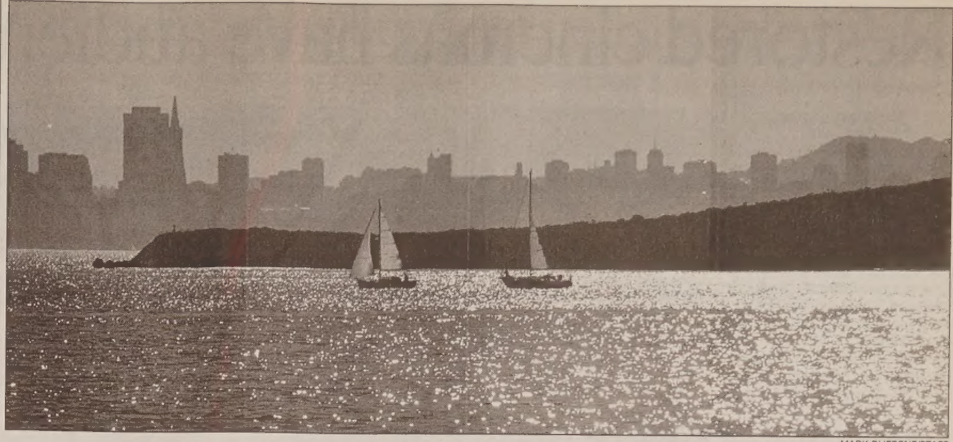
San Contra Costa school boards certified last week that textbooks in the district have 35,000. It is a formality required by state law, and one school board members agree to annually, even if they know the statement is false. "They year I wrestle with it, I know it's not true," said Contra Costa school board member Glen Price. "On the other hand, this resolution has to pass to get money in order to remove the situation."

Board member George Harris said, "Every year I ask, is this

really true or is this something we have to agree to just to get (state) money," he said. "We'll all vote for it because kids would be worse off by us turning it down."

The board unanimously approved the resolution Nov. 20. The move certified the district is compliant with state laws that require all students have, or will have by the end of the school year, sufficient textbooks and instructional materials.

Board members said the district has made progress in its supply of textbooks, spending \$5.9 million on instructional materials last school year. The books are available, they said, but may not be in the right place.



MARK DUFRENE/STAFF

Pair o' sails

UNSEASONABLY WARM weather made for smooth sailing near Brooks Island on Tuesday. Forecasts through predict partly cloudy skies and daytime temperatures around 60 degrees through the weekend.

Only 30 percent ready for disaster, state says

Officials urge residents to have enough food and water to last 72 hours

By Mike Taucher
STAFF WRITER

It has been several years since California suffered a full-fledged disaster, but those shakes in San Ramon serve as a reminder that Mother Nature has a way of lashing out in the Golden State.

Earthquakes, wildfires and floods are a recurring theme here, and yet only about one-third of the population here is prepared for the next Big One, according to state estimates.

By being prepared, state emergency officials mean that people should be ready to get through the first 72 hours following a disaster with food, wa-

ter and good planning. "All too often, people don't appreciate that first 72 hours," said Eric Lamoureux, a spokesman for the governor's office of emergency services.

"You could be stranded up to 72 hours," he said. "First responders are going to be spread pretty thin. They're going to get into the areas that are hardest hit first."

California's location on the Pacific Rim's Ring of Fire, its fire-prone ecosystems and propensity for occasional flooding contribute to the episodes of disaster.

Heck, California even has an active volcano in the Long Valley Caldera at Mammoth, which is monitored for the possibility that something could happen.

"There's a lot of hazards in this state," Lamoureux said.

"Only about 30 percent of the population is prepared for an emergency. We attribute a lot of that to the lack of attention people have between disasters."

And it has been a while since the last bona fide disaster, which Lamoureux said was the El Niño floods of 1997 and 1998. More than 40 of the state's 58 counties were declared disaster areas during those floods.

Climate scientists are predicting a moderate El Niño winter this year but are keeping their eyes open for signs of possible strengthening.

Flooding was the culprit again in 1995, when 57 of California's 58 counties were declared disaster areas. Del Norte County was the exception.

Before that, there was the 1994 Northridge earthquake, which was

the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history. That came five years after the Loma Prieta disaster.

"Every week there's upwards of 200 to 300 earthquakes throughout the state," Lamoureux said.

Most of those are imperceptible, but every now and then there is a swarm like those that have been shaking San Ramon to serve as a reminder that a bigger earthquake could hit at any time.

The state has a Web site with a lengthy list of things families, individuals and schools can do to be ready for the next one.

For more detailed information about planning for a disaster, go to the state's emergency preparedness Web site at <http://www.oes.ca.gov/CEPM2002.nsf/htmlmedia/resources.html>

Time to set the collegiate food rankings straight

REMEMBER HOW AWFUL the food was when you were in college? It still is at some schools, including UC Berkeley. So says the Wall Street Journal, which rated dorm vintages at 20 different schools. They really dished Cal's food, rating it the second-worst in the country. "And in a foodie Mecca, too!" the WSJ sniffed. (The only school with a lower rating was Texas.)

And which school got the nod for having the best food? My alma mater, Yale. The WSJ food critic sampled lunch at one of Yale's residential colleges named, coincidentally, Berkeley College. And she gave it four stars. To quote: "No food-service specials like mashed potato flakes here; the spuds were fancy fingerlings, three times the price of ordinary russets. Likewise, the roasted portobello and tofu salad was subtly spiced, and crusty French loaves were accompanied by a roasted garlic spread, plus olive oil for dipping. If I were a kid, I wouldn't ever leave this place."

This came as a shock to me, because my memories of Yale's food are somewhat less than fond. In my day, the mainstays



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

of the menu were two dishes we called Plane Crash and Train Wreck. (They're the same dish, except in Plane Crash the noodles are thinner.) What I read in the WSJ seemed too good to be true. And it was. A few days later I got an e-mail from a classmate who happened to be visiting Yale when the WSJ was there.

"Here's the real story," he wrote. "The night before the WSJ reporter arrived, there was a banquet at Berkeley College supervised and catered by Chef Alice Waters and her restaurant, Chez Panisse. The WSJ reporter arrived unannounced the next day for lunch, and ate Chez Panisse leftovers! (Remember the description of fingerling potatoes in the article? Of course, the reporter had no idea that she was not eating the

everyday Berkeley College food."

So yes, the food really is better in Berkeley. But it's Berkeley, California, not Berkeley College at Yale. (At least, not yet. The reason Waters was at Yale was to celebrate a deal she's signed to upgrade the college's food service. Her daughter Fanny is a student in Berkeley College, which is why the banquet was held there.)

Here's a good reason not to nod off when you're riding BART: Oakland's Joseph Silva fell asleep on the train one evening and woke up to find that someone had swiped his 35 mm Minox camera. The next day he went to BART's Lost-and-Found Dept. at the 13th St./downtown Oakland station, hoping against hope that someone had turned the camera in. No such luck.

But the day wasn't a total

loss, because as he exited the station on 13th St. he passed by the Camera Corner and saw a "Help Wanted" sign in the window. He applied for the job and got it. Three weeks later, he was behind the counter at the Camera Corner when a guy walked in and asked for help loading film into his camera. It was a 35 mm Minox, just like the one Silva lost on BART three weeks before. In fact, it was exactly like it. And the fact that the guy didn't know how to load film into it sounded suspicious, too.

Silva opened the camera, and inside was his own film! "Hey!" he said. "This is my camera!"

Surprised, the guy hesitated for a second. Then he said, "Nice camera, man," and high-tailed it out the front door — sans camera, of course.

Phone Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail him at msnapp@cctimes.com.

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Restored cinemas have audiences cheering

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — On a wave of public support, the Redevelopment Agency bought the old Cerrito Theater for about \$520,000 in June, with the hopes of restoring it into a major city landmark.

City officials in El Cerrito are talking to Kyle and Catherine Fischer, the owners of the Parkway Theater in Oakland, about operating a two-screen theater at the Cerrito space.

While rare, the plan to restore the theater is not unprecedented.

A very similar scenario played out in Santa Cruz, where a once-gleaming, single-screen movie palace that went through hard times was bought by the city's redevelopment agency and then reopened earlier this year.

A trend

Efforts to restore 1920s- and '30s-era single-screen theaters are under way all over the country, and old theaters have been named historical landmarks in danger of becoming extinct.

"It's kind of a trend. It's a movement," said Allen Michaan. His company, Renaissance Rialto Theaters, owns four restored theaters in the East Bay: The Grand Lake in Oakland, the Orinda, the Park in Lafayette and The Oaks in Berkeley.

Michael Buhler, a regional attorney for the western office of National Trust for Historic Preservation, supports the restorations. The National Trust, which advocates for historic resources, placed single-screen movie theaters from the 1920s and '30s onto the trust's 2001 list of the America's 11 most endangered historic places.

The National Trust says the proliferation of multiplexes in the 1980s and '90s has sounded the death knell for old single-screen movie houses. Since 1980, 35 single-screen theaters closed in San Francisco, and those that remain face uncertain futures, according to the trust.

And that's a shame, Buhler said. Single-screen movie theaters have served as city landmarks as well as economic engines.

"In almost all theater issues I've worked on, there's been a tremendous amount of nostalgia for buildings," Buhler said. "Beyond architectural merit or the importance to local economy."

However, single-screen theaters must add additional screens, or be converted into other uses, to be profitable and compete with multiplexes, Buhler and Michaan agree.

The 1927 Baghdad Theater in Portland, for example, was converted to a multi-use venue housing a brew pub and multi-media presentation space.

Learning from experience

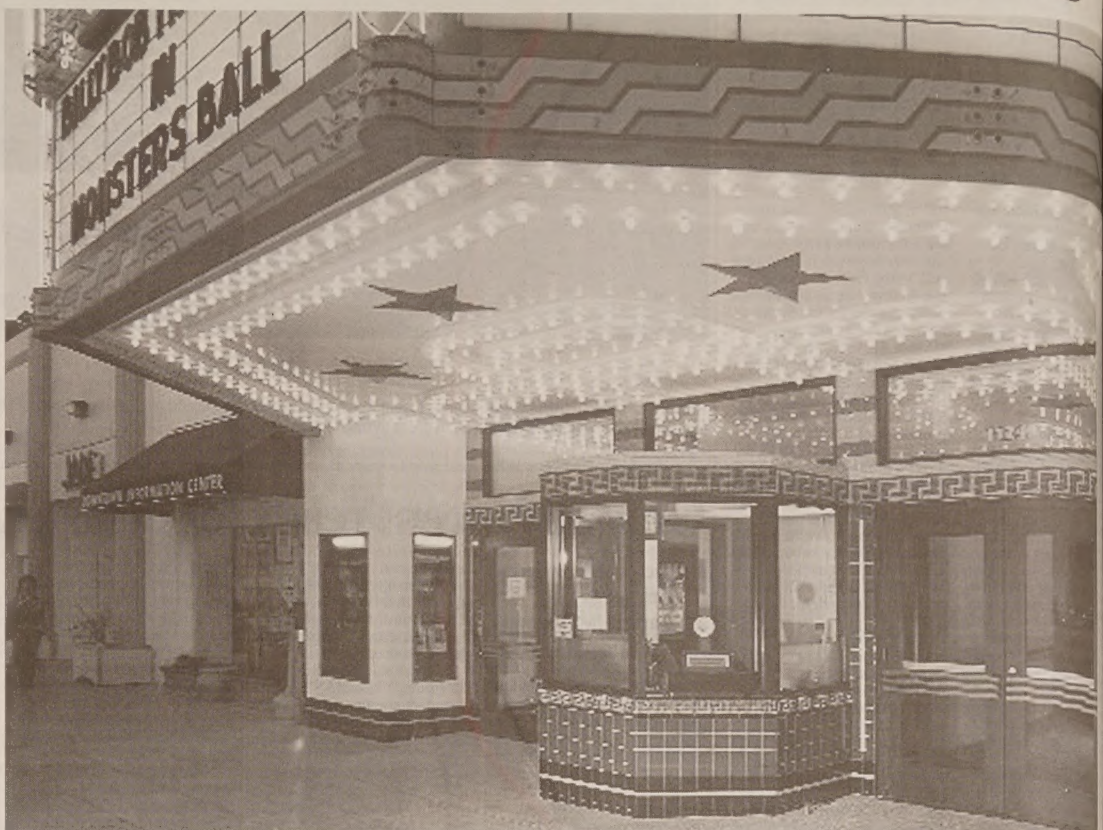
The city's staff has studied many restored theaters in California for ideas about how to restore the Cerrito. About nine theaters in the state were purchased by redevelopment agencies for the purposes of restoration.

"Even though we're not following a specific city's model, we've definitely drawn from the experiences and lessons they've learned," said Carli Paine, the city's assistant planner.

One example is the Del Mar Theater, an art deco movie palace that opened in 1937 with a 25 to 30 cent ticket price. It had more than 1,000 seats, elaborate decorations inside and out and a two-story high cathedral ceiling.

In the 1970s, the United Artists theater chain purchased the theater, split it into four screens and it became a second-run movie house. It took a big hit when the Cinema Nine multiplex opened nearby in the early 1990s.

Jim Schwenterley, the co-owner of the nearby Nickelodeon Theater, said the Del Mar wasn't



THE DEL MAR Theater in Santa Cruz was once vacant and rat-ridden. Now it's an attraction that has won an award for art deco preservation.

managed well and failed to attract audiences. It fell on hard times in the 1980s and '90s and was shut down in 1999.

Schwenterley saw the vacant and rotting inside of the theater after it closed. The walls were peeling, there was water on the ground and rats were running in the aisles, he said.

"You'd walk in there and think, 'Condemn this place,'" he said. "It was a mess."

The Nickelodeon Theater, two blocks away from the Del Mar, had the opposite problem. It was too popular, according to Schwenterley, there were long lines and packed houses. He wanted to expand and find a new theater where he could screen additional movies.

The Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency, meanwhile, was receiving proposals for what to do with the Del Mar, including turning it into a performing arts venue.

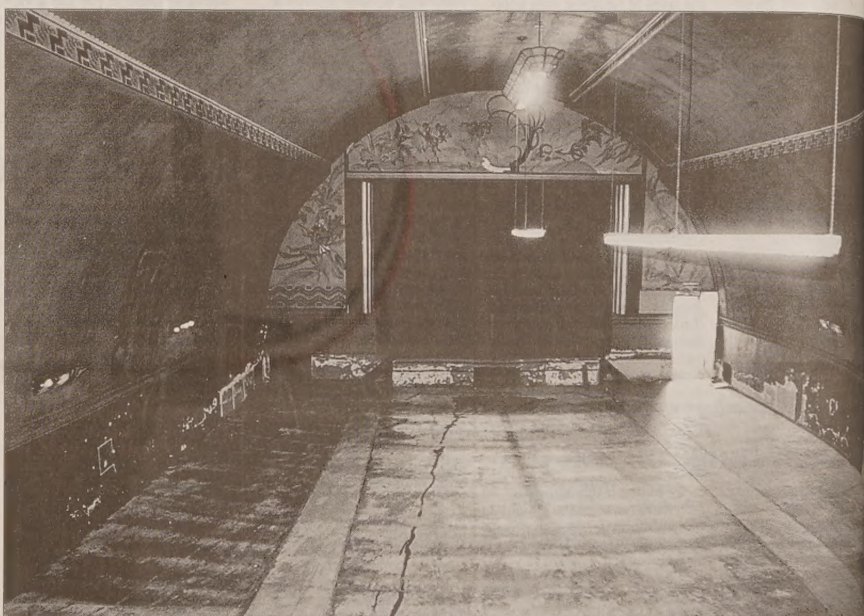
A new offer

But in late 2000, the Nickelodeon's owners offered a proposal the redevelopment agency couldn't refuse. The Nickelodeon, partnering with two local developers, would share in the costs of restoring the theater, operate it and offer the building for public events.

With that in mind, and with public support, the city's redevelopment agency bought the building in June 2001 for \$1.3 million and put in another \$700,000 toward the cost of restoring it.

The two developers and Nickelodeon together put in an additional \$1.1 million toward the cost of restoring the theater. New seats, screens, wall draperies, carpets, projector equipment, paint and a sound system were installed. More than \$25,000 was spent on an elaborate neon marquee.

It now has three theaters, plays art films and attracts several hundred people a night, said Darrell Doan, the redevelopment agency project manager. There are three small businesses inside



THE ORIGINAL INTERIOR of the former Cerrito Theater, which is the object of preservation efforts, is fairly intact, except for seats.

the building and the theater is used for nonprofit events for as many as 36 nights a year. Doan and Schwenterley said proudly that since it opened, it has hosted six film festivals with free admission.

"It's become like a major gain for everybody," said Schwenterley. "We got three extra screens that we really needed because we had so many movies and didn't have room to play with our little fourplex."

A happy ending?

Many El Cerrito residents would love to see a similar happy ending for the Cerrito Theater.

In Michaan's case, he added additional screens to two of his theaters and in 1998, successfully filed an antitrust lawsuit against

the operators of Jack London Cinema to get the rights to show first-run movies at the Grand Lake Theater in Oakland.

"There's no way you can restore a single-screen theater (without additions) and make it work," Michaan said.

However, the National Trust advocates keeping the single screen theaters intact to retain their historical integrity. Any changes should be made carefully, it advises, so they can be reversed in the future.

In El Cerrito, some have said the redevelopment agency should not spend money on an area that doesn't need any help, and the city should stay out of the movie business.

However, the Redevelopment Agency was swayed by the

enormous community support for the theater, with residents doing historical research and promising to help with fund-raising efforts. The Friends of the Cerrito Theater counts 600 members in support of the restoration.

Decision in January

The redevelopment agency will decide in January whether to go with the owners of the Parkway as operators of the Cerrito. The Parkway serves food and alcoholic beverages along with its movies, and the owners are considering a similar operation at the Cerrito.

Financial details still need to be worked out, according to Paine, but the city will soon embark on a campaign to raise much of the estimated \$2 million

needed to restore the theater.

In Santa Cruz, the Del Mar Theater is now the pride of the community and, according to Doan, is helping to restore the city's theater district. The restoration project also was named by the Art Deco Society of California.

"It's something that's not a dream," Doan said. "The city has to have a strong public commitment."

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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

■ **Hall of Health**, a hands-On health museum, features two puppet shows, at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at 2230 Shattuck Ave., (lower level). For children of all ages and their parents. "The Kids on the Block," the award-winning educational puppet troupe, includes puppets from diverse cultures and puppets with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness, arthritis, Down Syndrome, leukemia, and spina bifida. The shows promote acceptance and understanding of physical, mental, medical, and cultural differences. The Hall of Health is a hands-on health museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Suggested donation: \$2. Children under three are free. Details: 510-549-1564.

■ **The East Bay School for Girls** will move to St. John's Presbyterian Church and Center at 2727 College Ave., in Berkeley. This new location is at the corner of Forest, two blocks north of Ashby, and will provide expanded classroom and outdoor play space for the growing number of EBSG students. The move will take place over the summer vacation. School opens in late August for the 2002-2003 academic year on the new campus. Details: 482-4444.

■ **Teen Support Group** meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. Details: 531-7551.

■ **Check out books** from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids,

meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is located at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For details, call 848-0237.

■ **Hall of Health**, 2230 Shattuck Ave., a health exhibit museum of Children's Hospital Oakland, presents free puppet shows, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Kids on the Block, the award-winning educational puppet troupe, features puppets with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness and Down syndrome. The Hall of Health is a hands-on community, health-education museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Details: 549-9682.

■ **El Cerrito** offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. For details, call Judie, 215-4371.

■ **LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent** groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent child care. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. Details: Anna at familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-799-8560.

■ **The Ann Martin Children's Center** offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821.

Classes

■ **ASSETS Senior Employment**, job training program for income-eligible Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley or Albany residents, 55 and older, offer classes in Early Childhood Development. Seniors can receive college credits while being paid. Classes start mid-November. Call 238-3535 for more information.

■ **The Albany Library**, 1247 Marin Ave., offers free, ongoing chess instruction Tuesdays, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The lessons range from fundamental to advanced topics, and also casual play. This program is led by David Pruess, who holds the Senior Master title and is one of the top chess players and teachers in California. All levels are welcome and chess sets are provided. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

■ **University of California Botanical Garden** holds a free Sick Plant Clinic on the first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to noon. UC Plant pathology and entomology experts will diagnose what ails your plant. UC Botanical Garden is at 200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley. For information, call 510-843-2755.

■ **Folkdance classes**, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library). Simple, clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (pro-rated fees apply), \$8 for drop in session. Details: Mel Harte, at 848-5299 before 9 p.m.

■ **Vista Community College**, 2020 Milvia St., offers its new Sunrise College this spring with classes in accounting, e-commerce, business, Java programming, English, ESL, statistics and Spanish for business professionals. Classes start at 7 a.m. and end at 9 a.m. Call 981-2800 for more information.

■ **Assets Senior Employment** offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Earn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Details: 238-3554.

■ **Julia Morgan Center for the Arts**, 2640 College Ave., offers a family-

friendly program of classes, workshops and activities taught by professional teaching artists, all aimed at bringing arts participation into people's everyday lives. Classes take place at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts. For details, including class descriptions, fees, and instructor bios, call 845-8542 or see www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **The Berkeley Adult School** offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be utilized to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and computer classes, ranging from introduction to Computers to Advanced Computer Applications. Details: 644-6130.

■ **The South Berkeley Senior Center**, 2939 Ellis St., offers a variety of classes. Details: 883-5222.

■ **Interview Clinics** sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time. Leave a name and telephone number.

■ **A free CopWatch** class takes place Monday nights from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 2022 Blake St. near Shattuck. Know your rights. Details: 548-0425.

■ **Berkeley Community Media**, Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Details: 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

■ **Ashkenaz**, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dance classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kerali Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. Ashkenaz is a non-profit music and dance community center. Details: 525-5054.

■ **Life Stories/College and Ceramics** classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are wel-

come. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Details: 845-6830.

■ **Contemporary Women's Issues** class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Details: 644-6107.

■ **Dance and Fitness** classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theater dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

■ **Let's Swing and Jitterbug**: 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Community

■ **The East Bay Coalition Against War Toys** will be leafletting at shopping centers from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 29. Besides toy suggestions, the flyers will list some of the East Bay stores that carry only peaceful toys. To join in leafletting, call Women for Peace, 510-849-3020 or 510-527-1222.

■ **St. Alban's Old Fashioned "Yuletide Tea"** takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 1, at St. Alban's Church, 1501 Washington Ave. (corner of Curtis) in Albany. Tea and sandwiches, cakes and cookies will be served. Prizes, antiques, collectibles, baked goods, Christmas ornaments, stocking stuffers and jewelry will be available for sale. Boutique opens at 1 p.m. Requested donation: Adults, \$600; children \$3. For more information, call 510-525-1716.

■ **Berkeley Neighborhood Computers**, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. Details: 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net.

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meets every days at 7:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Community Church, 941 Third St. Berkeley. Share slides and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 848-6370.

■ **TOPS** (Take Pounds Off) meets every Tuesday at 7:15-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 1901 Hearst St. Details: Betty Coates at 848-6370.

■ **Turning Point** at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors support groups on Tuesday afternoons, 2-4 p.m. To sign up for an ongoing support group, call 848-6370. You would like to meet, discuss, and assist in providing support to others in your community. Call 848-6370.

■ **Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services** presents a new series of Community Emergency Response Team classes. The classes provide practical information, including on training in fire suppression, search and rescue, and disaster aid. All classes are held at the Department of Emergency Services, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older who works in Berkeley. Register at www.berkeley.org.

■ **Berkeley Art Museum** Museum Archive offers a guided tour of the Partner: Men and Women in the Contemporary Architecture presented by graduate students of the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design, on alternating Thursdays, 2 p.m. and on Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Details: 842-0808.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous** meets every days at 1:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Community Church in Berkeley. Alameda between Solano and Arroyo, in Room 2—the office room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for those who eat compulsively? Details: 842-0808.

■ **Toastmasters**, do it more and say what you mean. See CALENDAR.



EAST BAY VELO MONTHLY



Indoor Group Cycling

You've been out on the trails, putting in the miles on the road and now the weather's changing. It may be time for some folks to take outdoor activities indoors without giving up riding. What to do? Make music your road and join an indoor group cycling class. The pedals purr, your sweat flows, and visions of a "virtual" outdoor road race complete with hills, valleys, straight-aways and finish lines will be yours. Indoor group cycling is a way for some cyclists to train long distances without fighting inclement weather, and attracts fitness enthusiasts looking for another way to burn calories and pump up their pulse to a musical beat with group synergism.

The beauty of the classes is all levels of fitness can ride side by side. Novice cyclists might ride seated using lesser resistance to stimulate level riding, while a tri-athlete in training may add more resistance by climbing out of the saddle or running and spinning the pedals at very high RPMs (revolutions per minute).

At Alameda's Harbor Bay Club, the "Indoor Group Cycling" classes are taught throughout the day with certified instructors. The classes generally run one hour and attendees are encouraged to drink lots of fluids in class. This high-intensity cardiovascular workout is fun, challenging and can help increase both muscular and cardio endurance. The classes begin with a warm up and end with a cool down. Each class is a little different, as is each instructor, some focusing more on interval training, some more on long hills.

So, if you have been trying to figure out what to do this winter to keep up with your daily training, put on your favorite jersey, bike shorts and cycling shoes, bring your water bottle and pick up a towel on the way into the club.

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All About Rear Derailleurs

One of the great things about modern derailleur drivetrains is that they're easily fine-tuned should the need arise. How do you know? Usually, the symptom that tips you off that adjustment is needed is hesitation during shifts. You click the shifter but the chain doesn't quite engage the next gear the way it used to. There are several possible causes, the most likely being a shift cable that has stretched slightly, which happens to all cables.

Simple Adjustment
The cool thing is, derailleur designers provide a simple way for you to dial in

shifting so it works perfectly again. You don't even need tools. To make the adjustment, look at the point where the cable enters the rear derailleur. See the round knurled piece? That's a barrel adjuster, which is used to tune the derailleur adjustment.

Standing behind the bike, the barrel adjuster is turned either counter-clockwise or clockwise in half-turn increments until the shifting hesitation is cured. Which way do you turn it? It depends on what type of hesitation you're experiencing. The most common problem is slow shifting into easier gears. But, you might also be experiencing the opposite.

This rule will help you remember which way to turn it: If the derailleur is



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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should
a government without newspapers, or newspapers
without a government, I should not hesitate a moment
to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Pay close attention

WHAT WERE YOU DOING that late afternoon in October? Just leaving work? Starting dinner? At the Giants-A's game at Candlestick? Driving? Maybe you were at an intersection, any intersection, where the lights were dead and the drivers were all strangely quiet and courteous as the truth rumbled through their minds — that this one was a big one.

That's how it was Oct. 17, 1989, at 5:04 p.m. as a 6.9-magnitude earthquake rolled throughout the Bay Area and farther. It broke buildings and bridges, caused fires and liquefaction. And death. Some 60 individuals died from the quake.

But why wallow in the past? It's been 12 years and a lot has changed in the world since then. Let's pay attention to the present.

That's what scientists are saying about the swarm of minor quakes in and around San Ramon. Pay attention.

The tremors, which began with a 3.9 magnitude Sunday morning, were still bumping through the night, during which 26 aftershocks were recorded.

Monday evening was jolted by a 3.8 quake and more quakes greeted people — who felt it from San Ramon to Alameda/Oakland/Berkeley to Walnut Creek and beyond — Tuesday morning.

Swarms indicate a buildup of energy along a fault, Schwartz explains, not a healthy release of energy as many believe.

"Small earthquakes are just symptomatic that stress has accumulated to some high level, like weak links in a chain starting to break," said David Schwartz of the San Francisco Bay Area Earthquake Hazards Project.

These small quakes are coming from near the Calaveras fault. Should anyone who doesn't live near that fault shrug their shoulders and ignore these reminders of 1989? After all, that was the Loma Prieta fault. Is there any reason for the Bay Area-at-large to pay attention to these little quakes?

There is at least one very good reason that we can think of: Consider these quakes reminders. Not necessarily reminders of the fear and devastation from Oct. 17, but as reminders that every home, every business, every school needs to be quake-savvy and quake-supplied.

Waiting until a shaker arrives — and they always will, we just don't know when — is not a common sense approach. Just try finding batteries, bottled water, candles, portable radios and anything for light and communication in a store 30 minutes after a significant quake. There's a good chance you'll be too late because such mundane items become desperately valuable. And there you are; the power is out and you are in the dark without a way to find out just exactly how bad this quake was. You are expecting a family member to come home from work, but you can't find out that a tunnel or bridge or overpass has collapsed.

It's also not a practical time to stock up on non-perishable food, which also takes on gemlike value after a strong quake.

It is also not a sensible time to find out how to turn off your gas lines. A bad turn could lead to an entirely new emergency.

That's what the swarm of quakes should be doing for all of us. Not just nudging, but pushing us to get up and do what needs to be done before we end up worrying in the dark, regretting our apathy.

NO EXIT

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Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District

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Police Protection and Community

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Karen Leong Fenton, school board

president: 510-236-8460

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

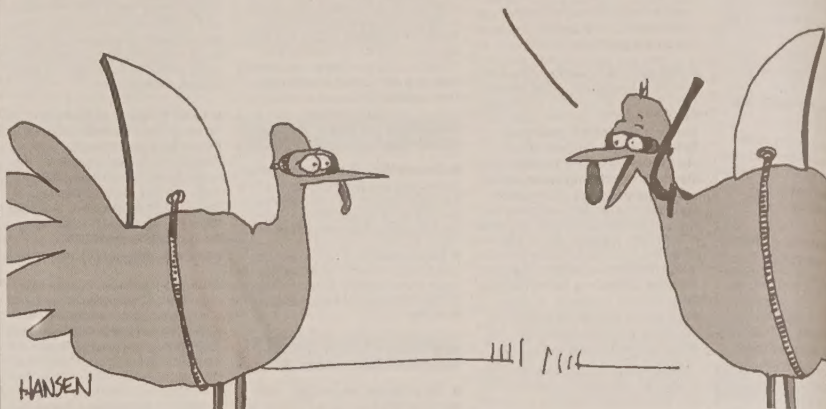
David Farrell, Albany school board

president: 510-528-9209

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING
HOLIDAY WEEKEND

I'M TELLIN' YA, FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS
WE GO DOWN TO THE LAKE, SWIM
AROUND, COME BACK AND NOBODY'S
THE WISER.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No objectives

Recently, someone said that now that the Republicans had won so many elections they'd better get the economy going in the next two years. Going where?

The U.S. economy has no objectives. There may have been some once, but they were replaced by a direction — up, as in more profit, more sales, more production, and more ads to prick the desires of more buyers.

What's wrong with this concept? It's an example of ignorance. To borrow from Laurence J. Peter's "dangerous" book, "The Peter Prescription," it's like the jet pilot somewhere over the Pacific: "I'm lost, but I'm making record time!"

It is no wonder our leaders have forsaken debating, listening to those with opposing points of view, and cooperating with one another. There's no objective to be reached; the U.S. economy isn't moving forward toward intended objectives, it merely grows like a tumor.

The politicians know all this, and so they, too, use all their energy competing for more power, more prestige, more terms in office.

Media pundits only discuss politics in terms of campaign strategies and how politicians and parties intend to get or maintain power. The campaigning never ends. Establishing objectives and moving toward them never begins.

Ron Greenstein
El Cerrito

Demand action

In light of the recent election and the revelation/suggestion of electoral improprieties in the El Cerrito electoral process, I call upon El Cerrito residents to demand the City Council put on the agenda, for the Dec. 2 council meeting, prior to the council's reorganization, a resolution asking the city attorney to investigate allegations of illegal behavior on the part of council members running for re-election and non-members who also ran for election.

There are serious allegations that state law was violated in turning a non-partisan election into a partisan election. There are also allegations that campaign fliers with municipal and possible state code violations were deliberately sent out with the knowledge and consent of certain candidates.

As well, there are serious allegations that state law has been violated, in that certain campaign donations amounting in the tens of thousands of dollars were made to candidates by businesses in contract to the city, in particular the Redevelopment Agency, which amount to, at least, conflict of interest or influence buying/bribery.

I also ask my fellow residents and the City Council to ask the city attorney why she is exhibiting reticence to investigate what could amount to serious electoral illegalities.

If the City Council won't take this action, we residents should demand the Grand Jury or district attorney take up this matter to the resolution and satisfaction of the El Cerrito electorate.

George McRae
El Cerrito

Unbelievable!

Barry Bonds hitting some 70 home runs last year at his advanced baseball age? Consider various other esoteric home run records this year.

Lance Berkman? Who dat?

With the occasional candor of Mark McGuire and others, can we doubt that the drug store is nearby?

Shawn Green hits nine home runs in one week, that could be 36 home runs in one month and 200 home runs in one year compared to Bonds' 70! Can we doubt that someone told Green — told the Dodgers — to knock it off before they make a complete joke out of baseball, if they haven't already?

And let's all not forget to check the drug store on our way home.

Earl Underwood
Berkeley

A bad proposal

I recently learned of Magna Entertainment's proposal to build a hotel and retail and commercial structures on the Albany waterfront.

Please don't let this happen! This little slice of heaven — beach access — is just one of the things that make Albany such a nice place in which to live.

Why can't the City Council look at ways to bring in more revenue via San Pablo Avenue versus turning a park area into a commercial zone?

Teresa Holtraves
Albany

Support our nurses

Local residents should give their unreserved support to the nurses of Doctors Medical Center San Pablo in their strike for better working conditions, and better retirement and health benefits to put them on a par with nurses at most East Bay hospitals.

Their greedy employer, Tenet Healthcare Corp., should do its best to reach a reasonable settlement instead of refusing to negotiate, spending thousands of dollars flying in replacements from across the country, and paying to house them. The striking nurses live and do all their business in our community.

If you're hospitalized, you don't want to see their highly paid CEO. You want a nurse with a cool towel or a sip of water.

In 1994, I went to then-Brookside Hospital for a five-way heart bypass surgery. The total billed to Medicare, including the surgeon and six days in the hospital, was \$50,800. In 2001, I went to the same hospital, by then owned by Tenet, to have a stent put into one of my arteries — no surgery, a simple procedure, stayed one night. The total charges to Medicare were \$79,600.

Who is getting rich? Not the nurses. They deserve all the support we can give them.

Morris Cleland
El Cerrito

Continuing forward

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

MAIL: 4301 Lakeside Drive,

Richmond, CA 94530

FAX: 510-644-1735

E-MAIL: journal@cctimes.com

We would like to congratulate newly elected members of the Albany School Board: David Farrell, Michael Walden, Michael Barnes, and Michael Moradi. We know they are motivated by a passionate concern for the educational well-being of our children.

We would also like to thank board member Jim Lindsay for his groundbreaking work on the board. When Lindsay joined the board at the end of the summer of 2001, he expanded the mediating and community building efforts of the board.

He actively reached out to parents, teachers, and staff members to build bridges among disaffected and unhappy people. He worked hard with the board to encourage the highly participatory process that resulted in the selection of our strong, new superintendent, with active participation of our broad community.

To the degree that we are all working together to solve the school district's thorny problems, Lindsay's work is demonstrating not only the wisdom of the necessity of bringing people together, but also the possibility of a small part.

We hope the new board will continue this bridge-building, creating the standing school district that we all have within our grasp.

Mary
Charlene
Karen Carlson

This letter also was signed by many Albany parents.

Cover-up in
El Cerrito?

Which candidate's Republican is rearing its ugly head in El Cerrito?

In the last two City Council elections, residents have paraded to the podium during Oral Comments to the shady campaign tactics introduced into our city election by the Committee for Good Public Policy, the Committee for Social Responsibility, which are funded, in part, by developer Charlie Oewel (Del Norte project), James Busby (Bay Vista project).

Resident after resident voiced objections to these tactics and requested the council direct the city attorney to investigate if any of our city election laws have been violated.

During the Nov. 18 council meeting, Councilwoman Gina Brusatori asked the city attorney be directed to conduct such an investigation and that it be agendized for the next council meeting.

Mayor Abelson responded by saying she would let the future mayor decide when to agendize any action. In other words, stall the investigation, hope it will go away.

If Abelson and the others believe nothing wrong by participating in these schemes, why is the investigation stalled? Could it be there is to these obviously coordinated efforts they want to cover up?

Mayor Abelson should practice additional democratic value and give the truth. Only with the truth will we if we made good choices or bad choices on Nov. 5.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

James Carter

...ST TIME I brought to the Bay Area on ... 12 years ago, while ... a stayaway in Los ... we passed Cal's ... Stadium. I pointed ... and declared, ... the California

...ther, 6 years old at ... around her neck and ... the length of the ... with furrowed ... turned to me and ... I don't see any

...aturday, the Bears ... in full force, fierce ... And after ... appointment, they ... Stanford. This ... talented team, many ... a rosy future.

...Athletics just hap- ... of our new ... We are as happy ... a big brown bear ... bar from ... backpacker's stuff

...Basketball team also ... great promise ... AA this year, perhaps ... to a champi-

...e interested in Cal ... women's sporting ... schedules, call 1- ... (GO BEARS), or ... Web site at ... ers.com.

...nders of this col- ... undoubtedly be recov- ... Thanksgiving today, ... leftover pie and ... dishes.

...ing of turkeys, Leona ... dedicated crossing ... the corner of Solano ... ably avenues, re- ... a week before ... several wild ... across that busy

...Known whether the ... butcher's knife or ... the home of ... who kept them as ... like one might keep ... the report suggests ... light, though

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KID STUFF

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Unless noted, programs are free with admission of \$1 to \$5, general; \$1 to \$4, seniors; 50 cents to \$4, students ages 13 to 17; \$3.50, children ages 4 to 12; free, children under age 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. Call 510-796-0199 or 510-796-0663 or visit www.ebparks.org.

■ **BLACK DIAMOND MINES REGIONAL PRESERVE**

Originally the home of several American Indian tribes, white men began coal mining in the area in the 1860s. The preserve today features old mines and displays of the history of the area.

Greathouse Visitor Center, open through November. View the workings of a 20th century sand mine and learn about the lives of 19th-century coal miners. Artifacts are on display and there is a video featuring former Mount Diablo coal field residents, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

\$4 parking, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, on Somersville Road, about five miles south of Highway 4 in Antioch. Call 925-757-2620 or visit www.ebparks.org.

■ **BLACKHAWK MUSEUM**

Discovery Room and Spider Lab. This newly constructed space gives families a special area to read books, and to hear scheduled lectures or storytellers at work.

Special Exhibits — "Dinosaurs," through Jan. 5. A hands-on exhibit lets the visitor explore the lives and habitats of these "terrible lizards."

"Spiders," ongoing. An extensive traveling exhibit organized by The Smithsonian Institution that lets visitors get face-to-face with some of the most delicate and deadliest spiders in existence, using a number of unique and colorful interactive presentation techniques, the art of animation, and a mini-theater. The exhibit is divided into five sections that examine spiders from all angles.

Automotive Museum — The museum's permanent exhibition of internationally renowned automobiles dates from 1897 to the 1980s.

\$8 general; \$5 seniors and students; free children age 6 and under, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Call 925-736-2280 or 925-736-2277 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

■ **CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER**

A state-of-the-art facility unifying all science education activities around astronomy, includes several galleries and exhibits.

Challenger Learning Center community missions — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 3 p.m. second Saturday of the month. For adults and youths age 11 and up. Experience real-time simulated space missions as sophisticated technology puts you in Mission Control. Limited space so reservations required. \$15. 510-336-7355.

Ask Jeeves Planetarium:

Featuring one of the most advanced star projectors in the world.

"The Sky Tonight," ongoing. A look at the current stars, constellations, and planets, the Andromeda Galaxy, and the Milky Way. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

\$8.75 general; \$6.50 seniors and children ages 12 and under.

\$8 general; \$5.50 seniors and youths age 4 to 12; free children age 3 and under; free for all on the first Wednesday of the month; free weekends for telescope viewing only; \$4 parking. Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7300 or www.chabotspace.org for complete schedule of presentations.

■ **CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND USA**

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"Beauty and the Beast" puppet show, 11 a.m., 2 and 4 p.m. Nov. 30 through Dec. 1.

Arts and Crafts, noon to 3 p.m. Nov. 30 through Dec. 1.

"Play Island," ongoing; a multilevel

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■ **DEL VALLE REGIONAL PARK**

"Lake Del Valle Scenic Boat Tour," 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Take a boat tour to the dam and learn about the lake, the wildlife and activities available in the park. Bring a jacket, sunscreen and binoculars if possible. All children under age 13 and all non-swimming adults are required to wear a provided flotation device. Program canceled with five or fewer participants. \$4 general. \$2.50 children.

7000 Del Valle Road, Livermore. 925-862-2601 or www.ebparks.org.

■ **JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

The site preserves the 1882 Muir House, a 17-room mansion where naturalist John Muir lived from 1890 to his death in 1914. Also part of the site is the historic Martinez Adobe and Mount Wanda, the 325-acre tract of oak woodland and grassland historically owned by the Muir family.

Mount Wanda — The mountain offers a nature trail and several fire trails for hiking. Daily, sunrise to sunset.

\$3 general; free children age 16 and under, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, 4202 Alhambra Ave., Martinez. Call 925-228-8860 or 925-229-3857, or visit www.nps.gov/jomu.

■ **LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE**

See KIDS, Page A11

Exhibits:

"Elephants!" through Jan. 12, an interactive tour of 50 million years of elephant history including modules for touch and feel, electronic multimedia and video and audio stations; "Larger Than Life," 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. short presentations about elephants; and "Elephant Tails," 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. storytelling for youngsters about elephants.

"Math Rules!" ongoing exhibit. A math exhibit of hands-on problem-solving stations, each with a different mathematical challenge. Make mathematical ice-cream cones, use blocks to build three-dimensional structures, make do-decahedron pies from a variety of mathematical shapes and stretch mathematical thinking.

Special events:

"Train Singer," noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 7. Greg Schindler is making a special stop with music and song, call and response, and storytelling.

"Gift Wrapping Made Easy," 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 8. A demonstration of unique gift wrapping techniques.

"Mining for Crystals," 1 to 3 p.m. Dec. 8. Slides and stories about mining expeditions for amethyst, quartz and other crystals.

"Storms from the Sun," 2 p.m. Dec. 8. Come learn the secrets of the solar system.

\$7 general; \$5 seniors, students, disabled, and youths age 7 to 18; \$3 children age 3 to 5; free children age 2 and younger, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Centennial Drive, UC Berkeley. 510-642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu.

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Briggs

FROM PAGE A1

Briggs is always on the lookout for more hosts.

"There's no pay and no perks," she says. "It's a labor of love — love for people first, and also a love for railroads."

The station hosts range in age from 21-year-old J.C. Collins of Concord to Briggs herself, who is 84. They include a security guard, limo driver, doctor, sales agent, web designer and the regional director of the Social Security Administration.

They make themselves as useful as possible, but there are certain things Briggs has sternly ordered them never to do. "Don't quote fares, don't try to settle ticket problems, don't take tips, and don't touch the computers,"

says Briggs. "In short, don't do anything that's the assigned duty of Amtrak staff. This is their station, not ours. That's my agreement with the union."

For her efforts, Amtrak has just awarded Briggs its highest honor, the "Champion of the Rails," for an unprecedented second time. (The first time was in 1999, after she testified before a U.S. Senate committee in favor of increased funding for Amtrak.)

"I'm so embarrassed," she says. "They usually give it to senators and congressmen, people like that. I was very touched."

She's also just received the Golden Spike Award from the National Association of Railroad Passengers — she's a former vice president and a member of the board of directors — for her lobbying efforts on behalf of Amtrak.

"By law, Amtrak employees are forbidden to lobby Congress, so we do it for them," she says. But for Briggs, the greatest reward has been the array of colorful characters she's met, including a man who trains butlers and a man who teaches people how to carve wooden horses for merry-go-rounds.

Then there was the friendly couple who came through on the Coast Starlight on their way home to Los Angeles. After talking with them for a few minutes, she asked them what they do for a living. "We feel funny about telling you," said the wife, "because people always treat us differently when they find out what we do."

They were Wayne Allwine and Russi Taylor, the voices of Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Briggs has lived in the same

house in Kensington for 51 years. But not much longer; she's putting it on the market. "I spend so much time at various stations, they're my home more than this is," she says. "This is just a place to lay my head. It's been a lovely place to live, but time moves on."

She's moving to Emeryville, right across the street from her beloved railroad station. She plans to expand the Station Host Program, and to keep riding the train herself as often as she can. "I'm the dinosaur in my family," she says. "My parents are gone, my husband is gone, my sisters are gone. The thing you have to watch out for is loneliness. But you're never lonely on a train."

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@octimes.com

Parking

FROM PAGE A1

Louie Jauregui, the owner of Solano Copy Center, said the street would be more appealing if people were allowed to park for a longer time.

"They're always afraid they're going to get tagged and that's not good for the morale of the customers," Jauregui said.

Some business owners thought two hours was too long. Heidi Rezghi, the owner of Golden Poppy Florist, said if two-hour parking was instituted, there would be less parking for customers and they would shop elsewhere.

Ideally, shop owners could request 20-minute parking zones in front of their stores if they wanted them, Carter said.

If the council approves two-hour parking, the traffic and safety commission will evaluate

it and decide whether it, which could be making it permanent to Mazur.

The city or the Commerce will pay for the hour parking if it is approved and the city will also signs to reflect the change.

The Chamber of Commerce proposed using on Solano and avenues for Decatur city's traffic and station turned it down the two-hour limit.

City officials estimate parking limits would cost the city unissued parking would put the new charge of issuing the work for that month.

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or alopez1@octimes.com

Chief

FROM PAGE 1

He also made several promotions to make up for the hole in the department, created when Bone was promoted.

Within the last couple of months, there were three retirements within the department and one officer left to work for BART police. He also has to fill those positions, which, from the time of background checks to getting on the street, takes about six to seven months.

The impact of the vacant positions is more overtime and fewer officers on the street. At the same time, it's also keeping the department underbudget because there's less money being spent on salaries and benefits.

However, Bone is seeking to replace those positions so the department can take advantage of the money from two different grants for traffic enforcement and teen alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

"He's eager to see we get equipment and training, whatever we need to get the job done," said McQuiston.

Bone said his predecessor, Larry Murdo, ran the department

smoothly and delivered services to the community, such as a school resource officer, and drug abuse prevention and traffic safety programs.

He wants to continue Murdo's work, but also make improvements, such as fixing up the building where the department is housed, at 1000 San Pablo at Marin avenues.

In addition, Bone wants to work with local police departments, to share knowledge and training about police work, including preventing auto thefts and auto burglaries, the city's most common, serious crimes.

Bone himself is now a member of the Alameda Police Chiefs Association, which had not had a representative from Albany. The department will also be working with the Alameda County Auto Theft Task Force to bring training to the city's officers.

"We're small and need a lot of support," Bone said, "and if we isolate ourselves which to some extent has done in the past, it's really not a good thing."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or alopez1@octimes.com

Eastshore

FROM PAGE A1

Planners want the park to integrate the urban setting beyond the freeway with the natural Bay environment to create what the plan describes as a "recreational facility harmonious with its natural setting."

The diverse environments promise a cornucopia of opportunities for recreation, conservation and preservation. That diversity reflects itself in the thousands of voices that made themselves heard during the planning process, which began last year.

From bird watchers to dog owners, preservationists to windsurfers, those who wanted a piece of the park to pursue their interests sometimes seemed to be at odds with one another during the planning process.

State parks spokesman Roy

IF YOU GO

Who: California Parks and Recreation Commission

What: Public hearing on Eastshore State Park plan

Where: Island Ballroom, Berkeley Marina Radisson Hotel

When: 9:30 a.m., Dec. 6

Info: Agenda and plan online at www.eastshorestatepark.org

Stearns says the amount of public input allowed the commission to draft a well-balanced park proposal that has something for almost everybody.

"There were literally hundreds of concerns, and now almost all of them have been resolved," Stearns said. "We believe we have forged a balanced plan which creates the best mix of recreational uses and conservation."

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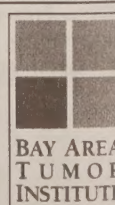
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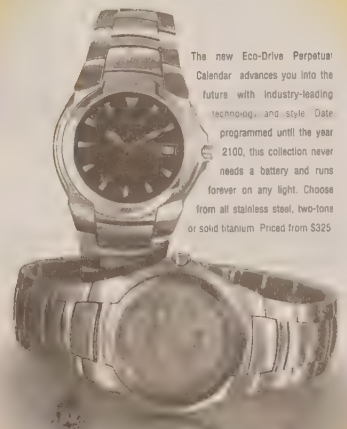
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Real Estate & Home

Supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclair, The Piedmonter

Friday, November 29, 2002

Section B

Beauty, 'clean' is often the eyes of the beholder

After 411 in a series of true experiences in real estate, I have been working on one of the most important surfaces before the house on the market. I went to the house and I found something that I had never seen before. It was not clean enough. The cleaners had already been there and they're pretty good. The women who had done the house at my own house expressed me. The house is occupied, full of stuff, while our list is empty. And in vacant houses, even if the house is dusty and vacuumed, the woodwork wiped and the people were living in it. I look at the house and there's stuff under the carpet and drips and I know this about vacant houses so we advised our clients to have most surfaces painted, the wood floors refinished, the windows washed. I agreed and all of this was done before the cleaning. Later the stager brought new switch plate and door stops, curtain rods and curtains, along with flowers and flowers. I mailed to the cleaning company a list of what I wanted completed and that they should do anything that would make the house look good. Everyone has different ideas of what constitutes clean, but I didn't convey what standards are. The women who accomplished a number of consuming and cleaning jobs. The insides of the refrigerator, for example, were spiffy. But the pebbly surface of the refrigerator



TARPOFF AND TALBERT
True Experiences

front looked dingy. And the old gas stove top needed attention; the raised chrome brand name and ridged vent covers at the back of the stove were dark with gunk.

Now I know that you have to look closely to see these things. I am also aware that my own refrigerator and stove at home don't look too terrific, but I thought that these should be far better than they did.

And so I used a toothbrush, wooden toothpicks and cleaner on them, took the time to carefully wash the details, and they were greatly improved.

The washer and dryer too, while fairly new, were not pristine, not surprising since they are exposed to laundry soap and grit from clothes all the time. There was gray caught in that same sort of textured surface on the washer control panel and smudges on the white metal covers of both appliances. It didn't take me long to make them clean enough that, I think, no eye would pause on them for long, exactly what I wanted to accomplish.

The kitchen counter tile had been washed, as well as the sink, but the back side of the sink faucet, the part that is hard to reach and scrub, was grungy.

I used fine steel wool to polish it. And although I am sure that the women had mopped the kitchen floor, there were splatters of paint and other spots on it. When the women were at my

See TARPOFF, Page B2

Today's kitchens embrace the home's living areas



THE KITCHENS OF TODAY don't separate the cook from the fun. They're open to a living area, so guests can relax in comfort while both hosts prepare the meal. This creates an open, airy feeling and better flow between rooms. The kitchen here has a large island with lots of counter space, a double sink and a raised serving bar. With this configuration, the cooks can maintain eye contact while chopping vegetables, washing pans or setting out appetizers. For more ideas, visit www.homeplans.com.

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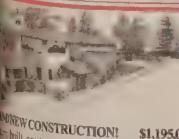
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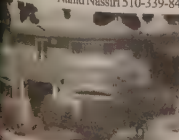
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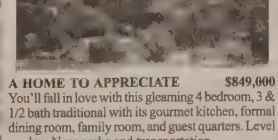
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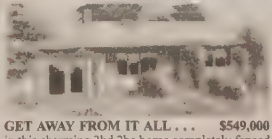


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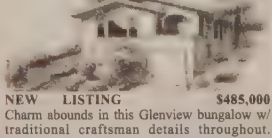
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Toys for Tots: Santa lends a helping hand

BY BOBBIE REID
CORRESPONDENT

It's a tradition. Every year Santa and Mrs. Claus visit the Independent Real Estate Brokers (IREB) Corporate Headquarters. There are goodies for the children and a free picture with Santa, in a custom holder.

The Holidays are about giving and IREB always includes in these fun festivities, giving back to the community.

The annual Santa Claus Day is from 1p.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7. This event is held at IREB, 860 E. Lewelling Boulevard in Hayward. A donation of a new, unwrapped toy would be appreciated.

In this case, the watchwords are "Christmas is for kids." In conjunction with the Alameda County Fire Department, IREB conducts a "Toys For Tots" drive every December.

On the day of Santa's visit the Fire Department (big red truck and all) comes to the corporate office to pick up barrels of toys. Last year, 15 barrels of toys were collected.

The IREB staff has already started collecting toys in anticipation of the December Toy Drive.

"We always have lots of toys for the little ones," commented Jackie Ruiz, Project Coordinator.



SANTA CLAUS HELPS Independent Real Estate Brokers President Bob Munoz gather barrels of toys for pick-up by the Alameda County Firefighters. IREB hopes to exceed the 15 barrels collected last year and donated to Toys for Tots.

"But the firemen asked us if this year, we could keep in mind the older children, ages 12 to 16. It seems they are frequently forgotten. This year we'll focus on them as well."

The annual Santa Claus Day will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., next Saturday, Dec. 7. This event is held at IREB, 860 E. Lewelling Boulevard in Hayward.

"A donation of a new, unwrapped toy would be appreciated," said Ruiz. "Anyone who would like to help with the toy drive can drop off a toy, or a monetary donation, which will be used to buy additional toys."

For more information call Jackie or Lois at 800-831-1172. Independent Real Estate Brokers has 45 offices throughout the state, including Alameda and Oakland.

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LOIS HARRIS, REALTOR

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Borrowing? Here's some advice from Freddie Mac

Real estate financing can be intimidating, even for the most astute businessperson. To make life a tad clearer, Freddie Mac (that pseudo government agency like Fannie Mae) offers some tips to those buying or refinancing their homes.

Freddie Mac describes itself on its Web site as is "a shareholder-owned corporation whose people are dedicated to making the American Dream of decent, assessable housing a reality."

Freddie Mac tries to demystify and streamline the real estate financing process, it says. To that end, Freddie Mac suggests the following:

Getting the down payment

- Use special programs that require little or no down payment.
- Tap into your IRA. Up to \$10,000 for an individual or \$20,000 for a couple can be used for the down payment.
- Borrow from your 401k. Interest payments go back into your 401k (so you will be paying yourself back).
- Ask for a raise. If you work for a large corporation, there may be a homebuyers assistance program.
- Get a second job.

Mortgage dos and don'ts.

- Do make loan and other debt payments on time. Every late payment reduces your chance of getting a "good" loan.
- Do miss a credit card or installment payment, before missing a mortgage payment. More weight is given to on time payments of an existing mortgage.
- If you are a first time buyer

- with both credit cards and installment debt (like a car loan), do make the installment payment a priority over the credit card payments.
- Do get your mortgage before applying for a new credit card or car loan.
- Do consider loan choices. A 30-year fixed-rate will lower the monthly payment and leave more available cash to invest.
- A 15-year fixed-rate mortgage has a higher payment but builds equity faster.
- Do avoid putting savings into something volatile such as an individual stock.
- Don't buy a house that will over stretch your current budget or that could keep you from qualifying for a mortgage.
- Don't get pre-qualified, get pre-approved. Lenders perform more in-depth credit screening, putting borrowers closer to obtaining the loan and locking in the rate and term.

Refinancing

- Refinancing can lower your monthly payment and overall interest. Switching from a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage \$150,000 at 8.50 percent to the same loan at 7 percent lowers the monthly payment by \$155 and the overall interest by almost \$42,200.
- Take cash out at closing to pay for home improvement projects or other things.
- Build equity more quickly and cut your total interest by refinancing to a 15 year mortgage.

Refinancing can lower your monthly payment and overall interest. Switching from a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage \$150,000 at 8.50 percent to the same loan at 7 percent lowers the monthly payment by \$155 and the overall interest by almost \$42,200.

Consider how you plan to live in the house. If you plan to stay a couple of years you should to consider or no cost loan.

"Freddie Mac is remaining at the forefront of excellent risk management" ing to its Web site www.freddiemac.com.

Consider using us when financing your mortgage.

Karen Sengiz can be reached at 510-339-8571; e-mail ksenzig@aol.com.

Quiet please: Eliminating irritating noises

BY EDWARD R. LIPINSKI
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Sounds that are disturbing, loud and obtrusive are not only unpleasant but can produce adverse physical and psychological side effects. Noise is as much an environmental pollutant as dust, lead powder or any other airborne contaminant.

Sound waves are readily transmitted through rigid materials. Hard, solid materials, like wood, metal or wallboard, transmit and sometimes amplify sound, while soft materials like fabric or foam absorb the vibrations and stop sound from traveling.

There are two basic types of sound: airborne and structure borne. Airborne sound is generated from a source, like a loud television or stereo, and transmitted through the air. In most cases it affects only the people who are in the same room with the source.

Structure-borne sound is produced when airborne sound strikes a structural element, like a wall, floor, ceiling or duct. The impact of the sound waves causes the material to vibrate and transmit the sound to other areas.

Not all noises in the house can be eliminated. This is just as well, because research shows

that most people feel more comfortable in an environment with low-level sounds, commonly called "white noise." But many harsh or annoying sounds can be reduced or at least dampened.

Most household noise is a combination of airborne and structure-borne sounds. There are two strategies for diminishing the amount of noise in the home: controlling it at the source and blocking its transmission to other areas.

Appliances like washing machines, dryers, refrigerators, air conditioners and ventilating fans produce the most noise. Usually these noises are caused by loose parts that vibrate excessively. Tightening the components so they are secure in the housing will usually eliminate the problem. A vibrating appliance, like a washing machine, can also generate structure-borne sound if it is in direct contact with a structural element like a wall.

Tarpoiff

FROM PAGE B1

house they'd asked for a mop and I'd had to admit that I do not own one. I wash floors by hand because it's much easier to see things up close, so that's what I did at this house.

In fact, most of my time at the house was spent cleaning up paint spatters, some of them from the most recent painting and others left from past jobs. I really hate paint spatters on things, and I scraped, used steel wool and thumb nails to remove seemingly thousands of them from floors, metal windows, glass door knobs and heat registers. Goo-Off, a wonderful product that dissolves even very old latex paint, was a big help.

The cleaning crew had not remembered to bring a ladder so they did not take down and wash light fixture glass, and so I did that, replacing burned out light bulbs at the same time. The door-bell cover in the kitchen also needed to be washed of grease and paint. I didn't know how to disconnect it so had to work on it in place. The stove pipe had however been removed by the painter and no one seemed to know how to connect it again. Anet washed it off and fiddled with it until it was back in place.

While the sanding dust from the floor refinishing on the main walls had been swept down, the women had not worked on the insides of closets. These needed dusting and, because all were not newly painted, black marks from metal hangers, shoes and the like had to be scrubbed off. Also the stager noticed and mentioned to us that the painter hadn't been able to remove all of the contact paper inside some of the kitchen cupboards. The part that remained was now painted and looked bad. Could we do something? After considering various remedies, Anet and I bought oilcloth and cut pieces to fit the bottoms of the cupboards, a most pleasing addition we thought.

While we worked, I kept thinking about how far some people who detail cars go with their task. Especially when a classic car will be shown in a concours d'elegance, it is made really, really clean. Every single inch of these cars, including each engine part, is made absolutely spotless.

And I thought about a client we had once, a woman who was selling, who had the cleanest house we've ever seen. Her house was like those show cars. She really was obsessive about it; she cleaned her house every day. Her stove which was elderly, honestly looked brand new. Her carpets, the inside and outside window sills, closets and drawers, garage floor and porches were all immaculate. There was not a chip in any painted surface, nary a spot or crumb or smear — anywhere.

Remembering her made me wonder if maybe we could hire her to detail our listings, to do what we were doing in this house. But after thinking it over, I realized that our past client was just too maniacal. To get a house to her standards, she'd feel she had to work on it for weeks.

As it was, our listing looked really good. The stager did an exceptional job. The effect was spare and colorful, traditional, but with marvelous little visual surprises provided.

The house received a most cordial reception and it sold quickly. How very satisfying this entire experience was.

Pat Talbert & Anet Tarpoiff can be reached at 510-653-2050 and at www.tarpoiffandtbert.com.

See NOISE, Page B4

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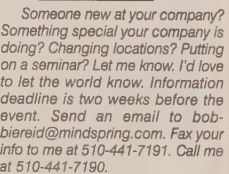
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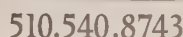
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See **CAULKING**, Page B7







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■ Also, improving water-heater efficiency and grout vs. mortar

Q: We are remodeling our bathroom and need a new shower pan. Our contractor suggested fiberglass or terrazzo. What is the difference between the two?

A: Both are very popular. Although they have been around for a long time, modern production techniques have greatly improved their overall quality.

The fiberglass shower receptors generally are one-piece molded products with a nonskid surface. They are very sturdy, easy to clean and resistant to fading, staining, fungus and abrasion. You will find these most commonly available in white or off-white.

The terrazzo shower receptor is a little more decorative. It is constructed of tan and white marble chips cast in cement.

The surface is ground and polished, then grouted and polished again. It, too, is a highly durable product and requires little maintenance. Although terrazzo is somewhat more expensive, it will not necessarily last longer than fiberglass. Exclusive of your personal taste for appearances, we would recommend fiberglass.

Staying in hot water

Q: Is there something I can do to improve the efficiency of my water heater? It seems like the

higher my utility bill goes, the longer it takes for me to get hot water.

A: There are several things that you can do to improve the performance and longevity of a water heater. Your high utility bill is high and difficultly maintaining hot water are no doubt related.

First, it's a good idea to drain the water heater at least once annually — twice a year in areas with higher-mineral-content water. This will prevent the accumulation of sediment at the bottom of the tank, a problem that greatly inhibits the effectiveness of the gas burners below. An electric water heater also will benefit from this periodic maintenance because once it's drained you can remove the heating elements and clean any debris that has accumulated on it. It is not unusual for the heating element to corrode and become nonfunctional. Draining the water heater is a relatively simple task that generally doesn't require any tools.

Start by turning off the gas or electricity to the appliance, and close the cold-water valve at the top of the tank. Connect a garden hose to the drain valve at the bottom of the tank, and open the valve a couple of turns. You also will want to open at least one hot-water faucet somewhere in the house. This will let air into the tank and help it drain. Once the tank is empty, turn on the cold-water valve at the top of the tank and close the drain valve (after

water from the drain appears clear). The faucet that was opened when draining should remain open, allowing air to escape until water comes rushing out of it. Then disconnect the hose and restore power to the unit.

Is that grout or mortar?

Q: We love our family room fireplace with rock but hate the color of the grout. The grout is dark to medium gray and we prefer light gray, which we think would look better as our decor is mauve, cream and light gray. Can we re-grout over the existing grout?

A: We also have a lot of black metal exposed around the brass-trimmed glass doors, between the fireplace opening and where the rock starts. Can a coordinating marble or tile be adhered or stuck to this metal front?

A: The term grout is more commonly used with ceramic tile installations. What you have surrounding the stone at your fireplace is most certainly mortar. Whereas grout is used to fill joints between tile, mortar is used to join stone together.

Besides providing a solid bond between the stone, it also can add to the design and interest of stone or brick. In any case, you can change the color of the mortar a couple of ways.

If the mortar is just a touch too dark and you want to lighten it up a wee bit, start with a 10 percent solution of muriatic acid. Apply

the solution to the mortar joints only, using a small bristle brush or similar device. A little of this mild acid on the stone or brick will usually not hurt as long as you don't allow it to remain for very long.

Allow the acid to remain on the mortar joints for at least 5 minutes or until it has stopped fizzing. Rinse the area completely and allow it to dry.

You might need to wait a few days until the mortar has dried completely to determine if the process worked. If the mortar has lightened but the desired result has not been achieved, give the mortar another acid treatment and allow it to dry.

Remember: safety first. Wear rubber gloves and eye protection and make sure that there is plenty of ventilation in the area when working with acid.

Another way to change the color of the mortar is by removing a 1/4-inch layer from the surface of the existing mortar, using a hammer and chisel, and applying a new layer of mortar in its place. Powdered pigment can be mixed in with the new mortar to create a color to suit your decorating needs.

You should first make a few test samples of the mortar on a board to make sure that you have the desired color.

Be sure to allow the mortar sample to dry completely since mortar typically will lighten as it dries.

Noise

FROM PAGE B2

Appliances should be isolated so they are not in contact with nearby walls. You can also purchase sound-deadening kits for this purpose from an appliance dealer or manufacturer.

These kits contain rubber mounting pads that absorb vibrations before they can be transmitted to the floor or walls.

It is also possible to insulate the rooms in which noise is produced. This is a good strategy for rooms with entertainment systems. In these rooms, sound emanating from the speakers strikes the walls, floors and ceiling and is transmitted through the structure to other parts of the house. By placing sound-absorbing materials on these surfaces, you can contain the sound in the room.

Lay a thick carpet pad and carpeting on the floor. Hang soft coverings, like tapestries, on the walls and install acoustical tile on the ceiling. You can mount the tile directly to the ceiling, but you will achieve better results if you hang the tile in a framework from the ceiling (this is commonly called a suspended ceiling).

The tile panels should be at least three-quarters of an inch thick and have a noise reduction

coefficient rating of .65. For extra soundproofing, fill the space above the suspended ceiling with unfaced fiberglass insulation that is at least 3 inches thick.

Other irritating household noises can be traced to the plumbing system. A common, and annoying, plumbing noise is called water hammer.

Water hammer is a loud banging noise that occurs when you close a faucet or when an appliance, like a washing machine, shuts off.

The noise is generated when the water moving under pressure through the pipes suddenly comes to a stop as the valve

closes. The water then slams into the sides of the pipe and the valve.

This causes the pipes to rattle against nearby framing and it produces a loud bang.

You can sometimes correct the problem by anchoring the pipes to nearby framing members with metal straps.

This will prevent them from rattling as the water passes through. If the hammer persists, install water-hammer arresters near the fixtures. A water-hammer arrester is a device with a closed air chamber.


The air inside the chamber acts as a damper that absorbs and cushions the shock of the moving water.

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MORRIS & JAMES CAREY
On the House

The black metal you are referring to is the front face of the prefabricated metal fireplace that was installed before the stone.

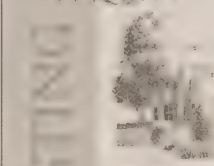
We understand your unhappiness with the appearance of this metal trim, but can recommend nothing to alter it. This trim frequently contains intake vents or air exchange vents that might be negatively affected if surrounded by stone or tile.

A safer way to deal with this problem would be by painting the trim with a heat-resistant spray paint that is close in color to either your stone or the new mortar color.

East Bay contractors Morris and James O. Carey air Saturday mornings on KSFO 560 AM. Write the Carey Brothers, c/o the Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY. For more home improvement tips, visit onthehouse.com.

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Some simple solutions for homeowners and do-it-yourselfers

BY JOSEPH TRUINI
Homeowner Magazine

You have a wet-dry vacuum, but it's a convenient, no-stoop way to use it to pick up wood shavings, sawdust and dirt from the garage, workshop or driveway. First, you'll have to buy an extension wand and floor nozzle for the machine.

Use two metal straps to attach the wand vertically to a wall. Make sure the nozzle sits about 18 inches above the floor. The next time you need to vacuum, simply hook the vacuum hose to the wall-mounted strap and turn on the vacuum. As you sweep the debris toward the nozzle, the vacuum will automatically suck it up.

Spackling screen patch

There's an effective way to patch small- and medium-size holes in drywall using two unlikely items: a pencil and an aluminum window screen.

Start by cutting a square piece of screen about 4 inches larger than the hole. Thread a length of string through the center of the screen, keeping a firm grip on the string. Roll up the screen and push it through the hole in the wall. Lay the string to flatten the screen against the back of the hole. Then lay the pencil over the hole and tie it in place with the string.

An open stepladder, laid on its side, can be used as a makeshift sawhorse. Lay the board you're cutting across the legs. Just be careful you don't saw into the ladder.

Use a putty knife to fill the hole with spackling compound. Apply enough pressure to squeeze some of the compound through the holes in the screen. When the patch is dry, untie the pencil, cut away the string ends and apply another coat of spackling compound.

If you don't have any aluminum screening, substitute a piece of hardware cloth.

Painting stairwells safely

Using a ladder on stairs is just as dangerous as it looks. If you must paint a stairwell, use two ladders. Lean one against the wall on the lower landing and place the other ladder on the upper landing. Then lay a scaffold plank across the two ladders, making sure it's level. Clamp the plank to each ladder to eliminate any chance of it sliding or shifting.

Only use a plank that's specifically made for use on scaffolding. A standard construction-grade 2" by 8" or 2" by 10" can break under your weight.

Stopping paint splatters

The challenge of painting without making a mess doesn't end until the last can of paint is sealed up — and sometimes not even then. Why? There's often a small amount of paint trapped in the rim of the can. When you tap down the lid, the paint squirts out — usually right at you as if it were laser-guided.

To avoid getting splattered, place the lid on the can, then cover it with a rag. Lay a 2" by 4" block across the rag and tap it with a hammer to seal the can. The rag will absorb any paint that shoots out. The wood block will protect the rim from being crushed by the hammer.

Wallpaper-removal tip

Here's an easy way to speed up the tedious chore of stripping wallpaper. After you perforate the surface of the paper with a wall-

paper scoring tool, use a garden sprayer to soak the surface with wallpaper stripper, a mixture of water and distilled white vinegar or just plain water.

Allow the liquid to soak through the perforations and dissolve the adhesive; keep the paper wet for at least 20 minutes. Peel back one corner of the wallpaper. If it easily comes off the wall, the adhesive is dissolved. If it doesn't, spray the wallpaper again and wait 10 more minutes.

Remove a water stain

Removing a water stain from a dining room table without damaging the varnish or lacquer finish is sometimes easy to accomplish.

If the water stain looks like a white circle, this usually means that the stain is only in the finish and has not penetrated the wood grain. If so, it can sometimes be removed by rubbing with a rag that has been moistened with camphorated oil.

If this doesn't do the job, try rubbing with toothpaste — one that says it has extra "whiteners" in it (actually a very mild abrasive). Spread a little paste over the stain, then rub vigorously with a piece of cloth wrapped around one finger.

If the surface is dull when you finish you should be able to restore the luster by waxing.

Quick tips

■ An open stepladder, laid on its side, can be used as a makeshift sawhorse. Lay the board you're cutting across the legs. Just be careful you don't saw into the ladder.

■ Finishing nails are typically set below the surface of the wood, and then the holes are filled with putty. Here's an easier way to conceal them: Drive in the nails at a slight angle, then set them below the surface. When seen from the opposite angle, the holes will be hidden from view.

Should you lay all realty eggs in one basket?



ROBERT BRUSS

TR BUNE MEDIA SERVICES

Dear Bob: Last year we bought two rental houses. After some fix-up work, each is now rented to excellent tenants for about 1 percent per month of their market value (I understand that is about the right rent amount). Our plan was to buy one or two rental houses per year. But then I considered the \$250,000 tax exemption available on the sale of a principal residence. Would we be better off selling the rental houses, selling our current modest residence, and buying a very nice principal residence on which we can eventually claim up to \$500,000 tax-free sales profits without the hassles of any tenants? — Carmen O.

Dear Carmen: There is nothing wrong with either idea. As an advocate of rental house ownership, however, I especially like your idea of buying a house or two every year for long-term investment.

If you sell the two rental houses, plus your current residence, and consolidate your equity into one really nice principal residence, all your real estate eggs will be in one basket. What if that house turns out to be a "lemon" and doesn't appreciate in market value?

My vote is to continue with your current diversification investment plan. If you want a nicer personal residence, why not sell your current home and move up? But keep those rental houses, which should prove to be excellent long-term investments.

Dear Bob: Last year, my wife and I sold our home. The sales contract we signed was \$10,000 below our asking price. But then I was told by our realty agent we would be returning \$10,000 to

the buyers for "upgrades." Then I asked what price would be used to calculate the sales commission and what amount would be reported on the county sales records. The answer to both questions was the full asking price. When I objected, my realty agent said this is how it's done if I want to get our home sold. This agent works for a large national real estate chain. Your thoughts on this procedure, which, I was told, is quite common. — Richard W.

Dear Richard: The situation you describe is fraudulent, and it is not "quite common." You should not have participated in the scheme, which misled the mortgage lender into believing the asking price was the full sales price.

This illegal practice is not widespread, as your agent claims. If your borrower makes the mortgage payments without default, the home will probably appreciate in market value and nobody will be harmed. Since the home appraised for the inflated price, maybe it was worth that amount and you sold for too low a sales price.

You could have reported your agent's fraudulent tactic to the state real estate commissioner who would investigate and possibly revoke your agent's real estate sales license. However, doing so now might get you and your wife into trouble for participating in the fraud even though you didn't know it was fraud at the time. Although I will get criticized for saying this, more harm than good would probably result by bringing up this problem now.

Yes, you shouldn't have paid sales commission on that extra \$10,000 of the fraudulent sales

price. Yes, you paid extra transfer tax to the county on the extra \$10,000. Yes, the buyer's mortgage lender was misled to believe the sales price was \$10,000 higher than it actually was. For more details, please consult your attorney.

Dear Bob: My husband and I placed our restored 1908 historical home on the market for sale "as is." The buyer's offer provided for a professional home inspection contingency, as you often recommend.

During the inspection, the inspector broke two doorknobs off the doors by violently pulling on them. He then pulled on the ceiling fan chain so hard he broke it off. Lastly, his inspection of the upstairs bathroom plumbing resulted in a massive amount of water leaking into the kitchen area and cabinets, which I recently paid a fortune to have custom-made.

I believe the inspector was intentionally rough on the antique fixtures. He had an abrasive personality and firmly told me he was there to represent the buyer's interests. Should I tell the buyers the sale is off due to their inspector's actions? — Ashley H.

Dear Ashley: You were rightfully upset. A professional home inspector should never cause damage to the property. Accidents happen, but not the type you describe.

Presuming you want to sell the house and the buyers didn't cancel the sale based on the professional inspection report, I would proceed with the sale. But I wouldn't repair the items the buyer's inspector damaged.

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* 5.656% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$300,700 loan and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%.

** 6.269% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$300,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing fees will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%.

*** 4.294% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$300,700 loan and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years, three years fixed and adjustable every year thereafter.

Programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses and planned unit developments. No prepayment penalty. Cash out allowed up to a maximum of 75% loan to value. Other restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of November 25, 2002 are subject to change without notice.

A sampling of our current listings:

Pacific Heights
 Large one bedroom with formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, new Berber carpet, plantation shutters, 1-car garage parking.
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Getting old? Here are some benefits

Who qualifies as a "senior citizen"? In the world of real estate, anyone 55 or over can claim "senior citizenhood." Now, you might be thinking "Why would I want to do that?" Well, age has its privileges. In real estate transactions, there are discounts to be had, and money to keep in your pocket, once you've hit the 55 year mark.

When you're planning to sell your home, think about purchasing a seller's home warranty protection plan that will be in effect while your home is listed and then after it is sold. For instance, a basic one year plan covers heating, plumbing, and major built-in appliances that break down due to normal wear and tear.

While the property is listed, you'll pay about 70 cents a day for coverage. You can then pass the coverage to the buyer, giving the buyer added confidence in your home. A basic home warranty costs about \$255, but with some home warranty companies, with the 55 and over discount, you'd save \$25 off that price.

If you're purchasing a home, and the seller doesn't offer a warranty, consider buying a home protection plan for yourself and ask for the discount.

Recently I represented a buyer in a sale, and the furnace in the home he was purchasing broke just one week before the close of escrow. The sellers needed a new furnace that cost about \$2,000. Had the sellers purchased a home warranty program for the listing period, it would have been covered. But they hadn't, and it wasn't. A home protection plan is a savings plan, not a cost.

If you're purchasing a home, ask your title insurance company if they have a senior discount. This may save you between 10 and 25 percent on your new homeowner's title insurance policy.

For example, on a purchase price of \$400,000, this will save you about \$150. If you're 55 and moving to another county in California, be certain to ask about the Prop. 90 transfer tax



ROSEMARY McNALLY
Helping You Move Forward

provision. Currently, nine counties honor Prop. 90. They are: Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Modoc, Orange, Kern, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Ventura.

This means if you sell a home in one of these counties, and stay in that county, or move to one of the other counties, you are entitled to keep your tax base if the replacement property is of equal or less value than the home you sold. If you've owned your home for many years, and especially before Prop. 13 took effect, this will be extremely valuable.

Another money saving advantage that comes with age is membership in the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Once you're 50, you're eligible. My annual dues of \$12.50 for AARP saved me \$125 on a one week car rental last summer! A nice side benefit of AARP membership is their publications. They now publish two magazines, My Generation for the "younger senior" and Modern Maturity for the "more mature senior."

So, if you're out scouting around for a place to move, join AARP and use the membership discounts, ask about Prop. 90, ask about discounts on home warranty plans and ask about title insurance discounts.

Then tell the provider you are 55. The key words here are "ask," and "tell." Let's call this the "ask and tell policy."

I'm turning 55 this month, and given the opportunity, I'll tell and accept the privileges this offers. Age is merely a number, one that can work for you if you let it.

Rosemary McNally can be reached at 510 769-1845 or rosemary@well.com

Which mortgage is the best one for me?

INMAN NEWS FEATURES

It's a great time to shop for a mortgage. Mortgage money is plentiful. Lenders are anxious to lend. And interest rates are at a multi-decade low. Thirty-year fixed rate mortgages in the 6 percent range are popular with today's borrowers. So are 15-year mortgages at less than 6 percent. Five-year fixed/ARM loans for only 5.5 percent are hard to refuse.

With so many mortgage alternatives available, how do you decide which one is right for you? Here are a few guidelines to help you decide:

If you are buying or own a home you plan to live in indefinitely, a 30-year or a 15-year fixed rate mortgage are the most attractive options. With both options, the

monthly mortgage payments are fixed for the life of the loan, which gives you payment security.

The monthly payments on a 15-year loan are higher than they are on a 30-year, so you need more income to qualify.

But if you can qualify, you'll own your home free and clear of a mortgage in just 15 years. And the interest savings is huge.

The interest rate on a 15-year mortgage is about 1/2 percent lower than it is on a 30-year loan, plus you pay less interest over time—about \$100,000 less on a \$200,000 mortgage. A disadvantage to some borrowers is that you lose a tax deduction when your mortgage is paid off.

One advantage of a 30-year mortgage is lower monthly pay-

ments, which makes qualifying easier. A 30-year mortgage also offers more flexibility, particularly if you take out a mortgage that charges no penalty fees for early prepayment. Let's say that your income is sporadic.

When you receive a bonus, you can pay down the principal balance to reduce your interest expense. But when cash is in short supply, you can stick with the manageable 30-year amortized payment. With a 15-year loan, you're stuck with the higher payment regardless of your cash flow situation.

HOUSE HUNTING TIP: Even though low interest rates make fixed-rate financing the most popular choice, ARMs may be preferable for some borrowers.

If you're sure you'll be moving



DIAN HYMER
House Hunting

again within five years, you may be able to save money with an adjustable rate mortgage. An adjustable rate mortgage converts to a fixed rate after five years. After that, the mortgage converts to a fixed rate again within five years.

THE CLOSING: Selling up for an ARM with a fixed rate, make sure you know how the loan works, and about paying any default as soon as you are able.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or dian@Dianhymer.com

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So, are you feeling lucky?

■ County teams up with Realtor and builder for home lottery

BY BOBBIE REID
CORRESPONDENT

First-time homebuyers may find a bit of good luck with a winning combination. Alameda County, Alameda Homes LLC and Realtor Betty Moore are teaming up to help first time homebuyers realize the American dream of homeownership.

Nine new homes are to be built in San Leandro. Three of the homes will be placed on the open market. The remaining six will be sold through a lottery.

These homes are designated for first time homebuyers (buyers who haven't owned a home in the past three years) and are limited to a certain income of 110 per-

cent of the median income for Alameda County and family size.

The open market homes can be purchased by anyone that qualifies. These homes feature three bedrooms, two and one-half baths, family rooms and two-car garages. The price is \$469,900.

The lottery homes are two-story with three bedrooms, two and one-half baths, two-car garages and many amenities. Prices range from \$289,900 to \$419,500.

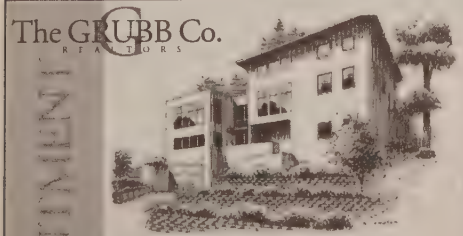
Alameda Homes LLC is headquartered in Encino. The company has been building homes for over thirty years. They specialize in providing home for low income and first-time buyers. Alameda County will be assisting with the down payment for the six lottery homes.

See LUCKY, Page B7

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If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 781 276-1711

Caulking

BY PAGE 83
When caulking around the window and door frames, it's important that the caulking is set against the frame of the house. The tarpaper is placed over the opening before the caulking is set in place. In some cases, water that might get under the casing will flow out through the tarpaper, but at the bottom of the window or door. This allows the caulking to set in place, not to set before the caulking could set. Caulking should be done behind the casing, not in front of it. Caulking should be done behind the casing, not in front of it. Caulking should be done behind the casing, not in front of it.

alternatives to caulking. Some air leaks do not lend themselves to caulking. Electrical

outlet and switch boxes, for instance. These are best sealed with foam plastic covers that fit under the regular covers. Unscrew the cover, put the foam cover in place, and put the regular cover back. It's invisible but effective.

A big air leak is the hatchway cover under folding attic stairs. You can build an extra cover for that hatchway opening, on the attic side. Make an open box of 1/4-inch plywood, and fill it with fiberglass insulation. Cover the top with 1/8-inch hardboard and fit it over the attic floor opening. You could hinge it to make access easier.

For a grand finale, consider your windows, and this is something you can do before you spend a bundle for replacement windows. Most windows, if they are intact, not decayed or hopelessly broken, do not need replacing.

But they may need weatherstripping, which will not only tighten loose windows but stop or reduce air loss.

For old-fashioned weighted windows, the best weatherstripping is spring bronze. It may be hard to find, but persistent shopping will find it. Spring bronze is a strip of metal (sometimes plastic), about 1 1/2 inches wide and slightly bent. It is placed between

Some air leaks do not lend themselves to caulking. Electrical outlet and switch boxes, for instance. These are best sealed with foam plastic covers that fit under the regular covers.

the edge of the movable sash and the jamb and nailed in place.

You have to raise the lower sash and lower the upper sash to install this stripping, but you do not have to remove the sash itself. Be sure to put the stripping on all sides of the sash, top and bottom and especially at the checkrail, where the two sash meet.

Spring bronze can be installed on most doors.

For modern windows that are spring-loaded, you can't put in the spring bronze because the windows are already weatherstripped. It is hoped.

The stripping to use for these windows, if you have to, is a rolled vinyl tube with a rigid metal backing. It is tacked at the joint between sash and jamb, so that it shows. It is tricky to install; you want to install it tightly enough to stop air flow, but not so tightly that it restricts the window movement. This type is better and lasts longer than felt or foam.

Great gazebos: Garden hideaways have always remained popular

BY NICK HARDER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

If you're shopping for a gazebo some day and wonder why most have that Victorian look, there's a good reason:

That's when gazebos originated. It was in the 19th century that this now-famous garden structure became popular. As Victorian-era gardens became more ornate and extensive, it became popular to sit in your garden. Eventually, structures were erected from which to "gaze" at all the wonderful flowers and plants.

Near the end of the century, an English architect combined the Latin word "videbo" (for "I shall see") with gazing, and we got the word "gazebo."

More than a century later, although most of us don't have the extensive gardens of our Victorian ancestors, we still love our gazebos.

The Victorian influence is felt in the architecture of most gazebos. You're most likely to see lots of "gingerbread" carpentry; little scallops, ornate carvings or cuttings, and a wide variety of roof styles.

So what makes today's version of the Victorian gazebo? There's no definition that says a gazebo will have eight sides, but most do.

Most are open with a railing around most of the structure, but not all. You'll find some gazebos enclosed by screens (particularly in areas of the country where the dreaded

mosquito is a pest) and some with just columns and no railings.

But that's where the basic similarities end.

Among the differences is the material of which they're made. Though the vast majority of gazebos are built of wood, an increasing number are made of a hard vinyl.

Most gazebos are painted white, off-white or are made of white vinyl. But you'll also find gazebos in colors such as gray, several shades of green, beige and even a few in Mediterranean hues.

And roofing materials and styles vary greatly whether the overall gazebo style is traditional or avant garde. There are roofs that imitate that of a home complete with similar roofing materials such as wood or synthetic shingles. There are also roofs that are porous and made of 2-inch-by-2-inch lumber spaced apart to let sunlight filter in.

Where do you buy a gazebo? These days they're everywhere from the Internet to your local nursery or home and garden center.

Before buying one, though, there are things to consider:

—Do you need a building permit even if you just order a gazebo and have it placed on your property?

—If you live in a homeowners association, do you need permission?

—Are your neighbors likely to

Near the end of the century, an English architect combined the Latin word "videbo" (for "I shall see") with gazing, and we got the word "gazebo."

object if your gazebo would block their view?

Where you will place your gazebo often has a bearing on its size.

Gazebos come in many sizes but are usually referred to by their diameter. An average gazebo is probably 8-12 feet in diameter, though you can get them as small as 8 feet and as large as 30 feet. (If you're thinking of a custom gazebo, of course, the sky's the limit.)

A gazebo should be large enough to hold the number of people you think might use it at any one time. If that means just you and someone else, you may want to choose a fairly small one.

If you want your own furniture — say, something like a couple of traditional wicker chairs — those would take up more room, and

See GAZEBO, Page B8

Moore

BY PAGE 88
Moore is the broker-associate at Realty World-Coliseum. She has been in the industry for 22 years and specializes in East Bay residential and income properties. Additionally, she is an officer in the Oakland Association of Realtors and

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OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

3149 MINNA AVE., OAKLAND. ATTENTION FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS! 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with new paint and carpet. Located on a pleasant street. \$259,000. Hope you can stop by. Keiko McDonah, 510-522-4449. Honesty & Diligence. Tour @ www.RealtorInfo.com.

1522 COURT ST., ALAMEDA. EAST END. Located in one of Alameda's most desirable neighborhoods. 2 bedrooms, remodeled office downstairs, newer roof, freshly painted inside/out, new foundation to support a second story for expansion potential. Tour at RealtorInfo.com; Keiko McDonah - Honesty & Diligence. 510-522-4449.



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



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21422 TANGLEWOOD DR. CASTRO VALLEY. CUSTOM MID-CENTURY HOME. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, beam ceilings, mahogany paneling & cabinets. Secluded creek front property on a cul-de-sac. Close to Sunset Point. \$629,000. Stephanie Neher, 510-881-8401.

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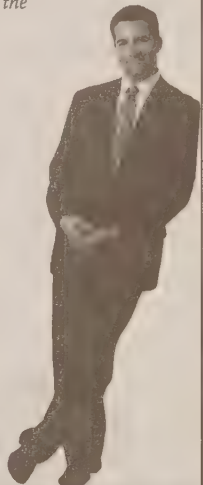
3114 MINNA AVE., OAKLAND. COMING SOON! This two bedroom home has beautiful wide plank hardwood floors, garage with an office. Located on a pleasant little street with an extra large lot. Tour at RealtorInfo.com. For more information, please call Keiko McDonah - Honesty & Diligence, 510-522-4449.

2219 SANTA CLARA AVE. ALAMEDA. OFFICE BUILDING. Single story building with 5 rooms, 2 private offices, full room, reception area, 10 parking spaces. \$650,000. David McIntyre, 510-748-1111 or Angela McIntyre, 510-748-1121.

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IN MIRA VISTA W/VIEWS! \$399,000
3+BR/2BA home on large corner lot, custom home built in 1963. Panoramic Bay views. Beamed ceilings in living room, fireplace, large carport. Lots of living area for the price! #0202821
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\$520,000
4+BR/2.5BA approx 1755 sq. ft. 2 car attached garage w/int. access, hardwood floors, fireplace, backyard w/patio, large living room. #02025981
Ed Messner 510-662-8494

ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS

\$579,000
4BR/2BA almost 2000 sq. ft. Remodeled kitchen with granite counter-tops, state of the art appliances, jacuzzi tub in bathroom, some dual pane windows, marble entry, fireplace, garage w/interior access. #02036425

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Take a look at 'engineered stone'

Over-the-counter Rx for your kitchen

IMPROVEMENT WAREHOUSE is a new player in the up-and-coming kitchen market, specializing in engineered stone. If you've heard about it, you will. This heat-bonded hybrid mixture of natural quartz, pigments and binding agents has been around since the 1980s and has been all over Europe. Engineered stone is just now making a big splash in American kitchens.

The first time I saw it, I knew it was going to be a big hit with homeowners," says Patti Price, vice president of countertop merchandise at Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse.

It's really the right combination of all the things that make it a good choice for granite. It looks like heavy stone, and it's stone.

Homeowners are quickly away from laminate countertops. The social importance of the joint entertainment

center-gathering spot for guests. "People know there's a huge pay-back from a remodeled kitchen when the time comes to sell their home," says Price.

"They're voting with their pocketbooks when it comes to engineered stone."

Cosmetically, granite and engineered stone are strikingly similar. Engineered stone is manufactured with high concentrations of real quartz.

Yet it's in performance where the new kid-on-the-counter gets good reviews.

Whereas granite stains and needs sealing every six months, engineered stone — called by its brand names Avanza and Caesar Stone — is not porous and won't need sealing.

Price says engineered stone (a European import) has more color options and is far more consistent in looks than is granite, which can show imperfections.

The new stone is warranted for 10 years. Granite has no warranty, and is not available in all U.S. markets. At \$50 or more per square foot installed, engineered stone is in line with granite. This compares to roughly \$20 per

This heat-bonded hybrid mixture of natural quartz, color pigments and binding agents has been around since the early 1980s. It has been all the rave in Europe, but is just now making a big scene in American kitchens.

square foot for laminate counters. But this new wonderrock is no do-it-yourself project. In fact, Price says Lowe's includes professional installation in the price of engineered stone.

Even countertop measurements are the job of pros prior to order and installation.

No special supplies are necessary to accommodate the added weight of the faux-stone. The stone is glued to the sub-structure.

Have you read with your children today?

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



7172 BUCKINGHAM BLVD, OAKLAND
Magnificent 2-year old Contemporary in the Claremont Hills! 4+ bedrooms, 3+ bathrooms, approximately 3,400 square feet with views! Chef's kitchen, yard and only moments to San Francisco!
See on Virtual Tour at www.redoakrealty.com

Offered \$1,195,000 Open Sunday, December 1st, 2-4:30 pm



2800 HOPKINS STREET, OAKLAND
Charming fixer with possible commercial usage. Large living room with fireplace. Formal dining room with builtins. Hardwood floors, yard and much more.

Offered \$299,000



12349 RIVERA, EL CERRITO
4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, family room, 2 fireplaces, 2-car garage.

Offered \$575,000



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Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

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ALAMEDA	Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4802/58A	24	\$739,000		
Barin Vittal	510-814-4824			
3802/58A	24	\$678,000		
Stottal Williams	510-814-4826			
1 - 80/28A	24	\$669,000		
Hauman Shandell	510-814-4880			
3801/58A	24	\$639,000		
Kasey Brandt	510-814-4823			
4803/58A	24	\$619,000		
Judy Lynn Jacobs	510-814-4711			
2801/8A	24	\$575,000		
Marlyne Oliver	510-865-8668			
280	1-5	\$479,000		
Koko McDonah	510-522-4449			
2802/58A	24	\$425,000		
Tom Young	510-814-4841			
2802/58A	24	\$379,000		
Shelia McNeil	510-748-1137			
2801/58A	24	\$289,950		
Barbara Bolton	510-814-4714			
2801/8A	24	\$279,000		
Bill Bennett	510-748-1108			
1801/8A	1-4-30	\$234,950		
	510-317-8887			

BERKELEY	Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1033 Shattuck Ave	2401/5Sun	1-30-4	\$695,000	
Berkeley Hills Realty, Ariene Baxter	510-824-1700	X19		
1404 Oxford	2 + 7/2aSun	2-4-30	\$543,000	
RED OAK, Billy Kamp	510-280-2138			
3200 Deakin Street	2 + 80/18A	Sun 2-4	\$425,000	
Pacific Union	Jack McPhail	(510) 338-1336		
1200 Stannage	2 + 7/2a	Sun 2-5	\$404,000	
RED OAK, Diane Ohlson	510-280-2139			
1443 Russell St	2401/5a	Sun 1-4	\$399,000	
Prudential, Jeanette Vento	510-845-0211			
2225 California St	2401/5a	Sun 2-4	\$349,000	
Thornwall Properties, Mary Casanova	510-848-1950	X212		
2922 B. Hillgess Ave	1701/5a	Sun 2-4	\$283,000	
Thornwall Properties, Helen Walker	510-848-1950	X230		

CASTRO VALLEY	Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
21422 Tanglewood Dr	4803/58A	1-4	\$595,000	
Open Sun, www.gallagherandlindsay.com				
Gallagher & Lindsay	Georgia Kane	510-881-8401		

EL CERRITO	Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5527 Knott Ave	2401/5a	Sun 2-4	\$375,000	
Coldwell Banker Daniels, St Adiego	510-232-7164	X12		



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OAKLAND	Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
700 Longridge Rd.	4 - 80/28A	1-5	\$668,000	
Crocker Highlands, Open Sunday				
Better Homes	Rosemary Greene	510-339-4000		
5584 Saroni	4802/58A	Sun 2-5	\$349,000	
Prudential California Realty, John F. Bell	510-834-2010			
6840 Sherwood Dr.	3802/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$849,000	
Oakland Hills	The Grubb Co	Steve Michaelides	(510) 339-0400	
35 Weybridge	4803/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$799,000	
Piedmont Plus	Dee Knowland	(510) 338-1318		
1735 Trevelyan Glen Rd.	3802/58A	2-4-30	\$789,000	
Crocker Highlands, Open Sunday				
Better Homes	Shardella Sims	510-339-4000		
2724-2726 Harrison St	4802/58A	Sun 1-4	\$750,000	
Prudential CA Realty, Heather Sandford	510-845-0211			

OAKLAND	Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1901 Rose Crest	2402/58Sun	2-4-30	\$750,000	
Prudential, Caroline	510-868-1454			
8026 Shepherd Can-	3802/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$689,000	
yon	Montclair			
Pacific Union	Teri Carlisle	(510) 338-1305		
3969 Lyndell Road	3802/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$625,000	
Dakore	The Grubb Co	Steve Michaelides	(510) 652-2133	
4301 St. Andrews Rd.	3801/8A	Sun 2-4	\$598,000	
Sagey Heights	Amist-2-Sell	Howard Kane	(510) 530-5330	
3932 Oakmore Rd.	3802/58A	1-4	\$599,000	
Oakmore, Open Sunday				
Coldwell Banker	Terry Kaika	(510) 339-4700		

OAKLAND	Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
8153 Phaeton	4802/58A	2-4-30	\$599,000	
Sagey Heights, Open Sunday				
Better Homes	Rosemary Greene	510-339-4000		
882 Prospect Ave.	4801/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$588,000	
Haddon Hill	Tom Anthony	(510) 834-2308		
Anthony Associates				
705 Santa Ray	3802/58A	1-4	\$549,000	
Crocker Highlands, Open Sunday				
Coldwell Banker	Vicky Faulk	(510) 339-4700		
124 Duncan Way	2801/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$495,000	
Montclair	Heidi Koorley	(510) 531-7000	X295	
Wells & Bennett				
1046 Elbert St.	2801/8A	2-4-30	\$485,000	
Blomfield, Open Sunday				
Better Homes	Mahid Kasiri	510-339-8400		
1151 Mountain Blvd	2 - 7/2a	Sun 2-4	\$475,000	
Marvin Gardens, Terry Podemore	510-527-2700	X36		
80 Linda	3802/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$459,000	
Prudential-Montclair, Michael Stephens	510-339-8280			
894-896 31st St	3802/58A	Sun 1-4	\$450,000	
Prudential, Heather Sandford	510-845-0211			
4209 Gregory Street	3802/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$450,000	
Rachwood Heights	Pacific Union	Kathy Flynn	(510) 338-1317	
2136 Funston Place	2801/8A	Sun 2-4	\$449,000	
Upper Oakmore	Assist-2-Sell	Howard Kane	(510) 530-5330	
3333 Revere Ave	2802/58A	2-4-30	\$440,000	
Open Sunday, Sheffield Village				
Re/Max East Bay Group	Carolyn R. Mettelmann			
510-430-0303				
1822 Chestnut St	4 + 1/2 + 1/2	Sun 1-4-30	\$425,000	
Prudential California Realty, Jacqueline Palacios				
510-834-2010				
3527 Kipling x Mac-	3802/58A	Sun 2-4	\$425,000	
Arthur	RED OAK, Peter Campbell	510-230-2134		
167 Samaria Lane	2802/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$419,000	
Oakland Hills	Pacific Union	Fritz Hochfeller	(510) 338-1348	
730 29th St #215 & 1/2	1/2x1/2x1/2	Sun 2-4-30	\$418,000	
RED OAK, Sara Garabedian	510-230-2105			
1229 13th Ave.	2802/58A	2-4-30	\$385,000	
Open SAT				
Burchell House Properties, Francesca Thom	831-825-5045			

OAKLAND	Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3018 California St x	2401/5a	Sun 2-4	\$378,000	
Maple	RED OAK, Keith Robinson	510-230-2105		
8239 Golf Links Rd	4802/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$375,000	
Prudential-Montclair, Della Hansen	510-339-8290			
655 Oakland Ave.	3802/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$375,000	
#421	Rose Garden			
Wells & Bennett	Patsy Butler	(510) 531-7000	X238	
2114 51st Ave	2401/5a	Sun 2-4-30	\$362,800	
Prudential-Montclair, Vicki Lander	510-339-8290			
2019 45 Avenue	4802/58A	Sun 2-5	\$335,000	
Wells & Bennett	Little Brandy	510-844-5282		
6323 Sunnymer Ave	2401/5a	Sun 1-5	\$325,000	
Prudential, Erik Johnson	510-339-8290			
492 Staten Ave.	1701/5a	2-4-30	\$295,000	
Lake Merritt				
C21 Heritage R.E.	Tom Erwin	510-339-8900		
380 Vernon St. #108	2801/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$270,000	
Adams Point	Wells & Bennett	Patsy Butler	(510) 531-7000	X238
3149 Minna Ave	2802/58A	2-4	\$229,000	
Open Sunday, www.gallagherandlindsay.com				
Gallagher & Lindsay	Kelko McDonah	510-522-4449		
150 Pearl St. #206	1801/8A	Sun 2-4-30	\$209,000	
Adams Point	Wells & Bennett	Carol Robbins	(510) 531-7000	X202
371-30th St.	1801/8A	12-6	\$1	
*6 2402/58A, Mt-\$200,000 & up, PW Hill, Open Sat/Sun,				
Coldwell Banker	Elena Stone	(510) 339-4700		

PIEDMONT	Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2056 Oakland Avenue	3802/58A	Sun 2-4-30	\$1,195,000	
The Grubb Co	Anlan Pettit Tunney	(510) 339-0400		

RICHMOND	Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6011 Rose Arbor Ave	3801/5a	Sun 1-4	\$324,988	
Security Pacific, Cynthia Burke	510-862-8528			

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The Largest Garage Sale Listings in The East Bay REACHING OVER 190,000 HOMES

Alameda 21 CAPTAIN (HB) SUN 9-3 Lots of treasures! Chd. r. mats, art, dolls, etc. etc. ESTATE SALE FRIDAY 12-5 SAT 10-4 LOTS OF COLLECTIBLES Hard Painted China & Creamers, Cut & Press Glass, Miniatures, Silver De- corative Glass, Costume Jewelry, Books, Kitchen Items, 1950's to 1970's Furniture, Danish Modern Lots of Tools, Old Trunk Folding & Camping Items, Men's & Women's Cloth- ing, Sewing Items. Large Rug Lots More! Lynn's of Alameda 510-523-2383 www.lynnsofalmameda.com HOLIDAY ARTS CRAFTS SAT 11-6/SUN 12-5 1918 Encinal - Chestnut Artes. Treasures - Jewelry, weather, painted glass, wa- tercolors, scarves, slippers, robes, ornaments more MOVING SALE Everything Goes Sat. Nov. 30th 9-4pm 140 Nottingham Dr (Bay Farm)	Antioch BUY YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT EMIS HERE! SAT 11-30 9AM-3PM 4701 TAYLOR RD. WAY WHY SHOP ANYWHERE ELSE? GARAGE SALE SAT. NOVEMBER 30 & SUN. DECEMBER 1 5145 PANWEE DRIVE, ANTIOCH Varied items. Nothing un- der \$1. Closing out 15 rooms & 35 years. Sat. 11:30-5:30-2pm 220 West 4th St. NO EARLY SALES! Bay Point ESTATE SALE Today until 11:30 AM AM & PM 97 N. Broadway Tools-hand, power, auto, plumbing, tools. New sinks, tubs, toilets etc. Great stuff! GARAGE SALE Nov 22, 23, 24, Fri. Sat. & Sun 9-5pm 128 Franklin Ave. 1987 15 ft. boat w/motor & trailer, casting rods, rods & reels, crabs, & odds & ends int'l. boating & fishing stuff Berkeley 2840 PARKER ST. (At Waver- ly) Nov. 30/DEC 1ST 10am-7 PM, books, beads, shelves, etc. open 1989 BMW, more! 510-915-7732 Brentwood MOVING SALE SAT-SUN 11/30-12/1, 9-7 to Early Birds 704 AUTUMN DR. (off Summerwood) Tools, antiques, hand- made, washer, dryer, stuff	Brentwood 1398 Camden Ct Soft desk, children's clothing & toys, & misc. hand. items Saturday 11/30, 9 a.m. Concord ESTATE SALE 3351 Euclid Dr. (between Farm Bureau & N. Side) SAT NOV. 30th, 9-4 Lots of kitchenware, bed- ding, small furniture items, books & lots of misc. 5 FAMILY Ct. Yd. Sale! Kids stuff, hand. items, etc. supplies, antiques 930 CLARKSON CT N. RIDGEON (N. BANCROFT & DAVID) SAT ONLY 11/30 9-3PM FRI 11/29 & SAT 11/30 9-5 am - 2:30 pm 2000 RISON ROAD Stereos, VCRs, TVs, Bikes, Camping equip., tools, vid- eo cameras, toys, baby stroller, car seat, etc. & lots more GARAGE/MOVING SALE 3413 Del Chiaro Way (cross St. Roselyn) Saturday 9am-4pm Furn & misc. items (925) 689-5854 GARAGE SALE MISC., ITEMS! SAT. ONLY 9-4pm 1691 Agadir St GARAGE SALE Sat. 8am. Sharp! 3418 El Monte Dr. TOOLS ONLY!!	Concord HUGE, HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE Great Stuff New & Used Items. Must See! Something of Everything! 10A-4P. 1000 Oak Grove 1830 Manzanita Dr. (off Landana) ISLAND TREASURES craft hair, Hardside bags, rule dolls, shell mirrors & pic- frames, tape, mats, jew- elry, etc. Must See! more... SAT ONLY 11/30 10A-4P. 1000 Oak Grove 1830 Manzanita Dr. (off Landana) MOVING EAST K-7 Teacher supply sale & apt. furniture sale. All things must go. Furlon 11/30 Sat. Wed. canopy bed, Shaker desk, end table, etc. SAT-SUN 9-4 5450 Concord Blvd. #B1 SAT NOV 30, 10-4 1308 WATERFALL WAY (off Fallbrook) Household items, stuffed animals & lots more! SUNDAY 12/1, 8-12PM 930 North Darns Ave. 10A-4P. 11/29-30, 9-4 (off Oak Grove) Infant girl & woman's cloth- ing, kids, glassware, dog crate (cage), fan, baby stroller and lots of misc. EVERYTHING MUST GO! Cordelia SAT 11/30 9AM-4PM, 11/29 9TH STREET, CONCORD 3 Family Garage Sale. Furni- ture, clothes, Sports Equip., Household & Office Goods. Between Concord Bvd & Clayton Rd. No Early Birds! Discovery Bay HUGE MULTI-FAMILY MOVING SALE Furniture, lamps, chandel- iers, toys, all kinds of good stuff! FRI-SAT 11/29-30, 8-3 5051 DOUBLE POINT WAY (off Riverdale)	Emeryville MOVING SAT 8-1 4316 A GALEM ST. 43rd & 45th St/ San Pablo Furniture, good stuff, misc. items. No bids or Junk Lafayette HUGE GARAGE SALE TEENING HOUSE Everything must go! Appl's, car, knock knock! For info, email me at kenneyrachel@hotmail.com Sat. 11/30, 7am-2pm 3676 Powell Dr. HUGE GARAGE SALE FRI/SAT/SUN 9-5pm 3155 Plymouth Rd. (off Stanley Blvd) Furniture, kids stuff, sports equip., clothes, toys Great Deals! MOVING SALE Lots of kids/baby stuff SATURDAY 11/30 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M. 3023 Rohrer Dr. Livermore FORMER HOUSE OF LLOYD Xmas Around The World consistent housekeeping. Other items also available clothes, toys, hand. goods SAT ONLY 11/30, 8:30-2 (Rain or Shine) 576 Mayten Dr. Don't Miss this! NOV. 29-30, 7:30-4:30 773 GRACE CT Household misc., knickknacks, furn., good stuff & more	Martinez COLLECTIBLES Estate Sale - 80's-90's Dolls, toys & action figures - many in pkg. B&K, Fisher, Price, dear, Kenner, Mattel. Med. 3101/12/22 FRI-MON 11/29-12/2 (925) 370-7825 162 SILVERWOOD DR. FRI-SAT 11/29-12/2 Lthr. recliner, fast trak ex- erciser, x-mas tree, wick- er furniture, room cabi- nets, braided and barber rugs, patterns, linens & blankets, puzzles, etc. ULTIMATE Garage Sale SAT & SUN 9-5PM 688 Kelly Ave. Antiques, Xmas stuff, comp equip & soft furn., design clothes, books, fabric & a pizza pattern, new mat- tress, etc. etc. aquarium, C&K VHS movies, & lots more! YARD SALE Variety of hand. items, clothing & crocheted items. Come see - we may have something you like! 101 RITA DR. SAT ONLY NOV 30, 8-2 God Bless You Oakland \$5/BAG SALE Deals Best For Less Moving Room 800 Macphail Ave. Across from Pioneer H.S. Every Sat. until 11/30 From 10 a.m. to 12 noon 5799 COUNTRY CLUB DR Sat. 11/30, 9:30-3:30PM Din. rm. sat. oval tbl., 4 chrs., breakfast, pean fin- lan, French kit. tbl. & chrs. roll-top desk, computer desk, health-rider, wick- er couch, reas. chairs ESTATE SALE 3817 Calista St. (Off 88th ave. & Golf Unio.) SAT/SUN 10AM-4PM Antiques & Cuban art work- ing as of poster bed, eigh bed, C. Kester Merril stove, ref. cookware, jazz LPs, CDs, TV's, stereos, exotic plants, tools, exercise & camping equip. Lots of gift items	Oakland FRI & SAT 11/29 8-4PM 2501 Stockbridge Dr. (Shelton) Furn., electronics, quilts & tons misc. items MOVING SALE (inside) SAT 11/30 8am-3pm 375 Jayne Ave. (e. Perkins Ave.) Sports, Appl. Toys, Games RAIN OR SHINE! Saturday 11/30, 9-2PM 7033 Broadway Terrace Electronics, like cam., toys, china, crystal, collectibles, too much to list and more! CHEAP! Everything Must Go! Pineole 2335 Simas FRI/SAT/SUN 9-4PM Guitars & amps, jewelry, car parts, clothing, tars for cars, stereos, lots of ceramics Pittsburg SAT 11/30 9AM-2PM, 1005 Power Ave. Fountain Plaza Apt #1. Look for Moving Sale. Sofa, TV, Book case, VCR, Much More Priced to Sell. Some items Are Brand New. One Day Only. 550-2624 SAT-SUN 10-3 318 SNOW FLAKE WAY Willow Pass to Winter Wy Little like cabin, roller coaster, toys, teeter totter, rocket, brown recliner, silk cane, oak bar stool, adult & boys clothes sat. 8-8 Pleasant Hill GARAGE SALE SATURDAY ONLY - 11/23 Wolf Range, freezer, washer, d'r & flatware 30 Yrs of Collecting 109 Longfellow Drive. P.H. CASH ONLY - 8:00 to 2:00	Pleasant Hill SAT ONLY 8-2PM 873 Ruth Dr. (Willow Pass Rd.) Boy's baby clothes 0-2t boys, crabs, strollers, B&W organ, etc. desk tools, generator/washer, & camp cook stove Richmond MOVING SALE SATURDAY NOV 30 10AM-4PM Please No Early Birds! 761 Kern Street Richmond, CA Furniture and Misc YARD SALE Crafts & Christmas decor Friday, Sat. & Sun. (11/29-12/01) 8 am - 5 pm 4001 Clinton Ave Come see to appreciate San Ramon ESTATE SALE Dec 7th & 8th 9-4pm at 7421 Sedge- field. Linens, bedding, Safes, tools, etc. lots of young girls clothes, jewelry, luggage, glassware, X-Mas gifts items, & lots more MOVING SALE Everything Must Go SAT 11/30 9-3 12205 SANTA TERESA DR Lamps, books, baskets, pots, variety of furniture, games, puzzles, suitcases, 5 brass trumpet, etc. MOVING SALE SAT. 11/30 7AM-NOON, Daybed, couches, toys, bikes and more. CROSSETT STREET INDIAN RICE ROAD 2050 GOLDENROD LN MOVING SALE SAT. 11/30, 8-1PM 2837 Aptos Way Furn. tools, bldg materi- als, hand. gds. low prices! EVERYTHING MUST GO!	San Ramon SAT 11/30 9AM-3PM 2725 Alamo Dr. (off Hwy 58) Moving Sale. Whitepool HD table, 4 chairs, weight ma- chine, 40 in. speakers, tax- idermied, baby's chair, ex- ercise mower, trampoline frame SATURDAY 8AM-2PM SUNDAY 8AM-NOON 2816 Bowen Ave. Holds. B&W Items. Ch- ildren's Items Walnut Creek COMPANY MOVING Desks, chairs, file cabinets office equip., tables, etc. SAT 11/30, 7-11 AM 1196 BOULEVARD WAY (off Mt. Diablo) ESTATE SALE SATURDAY, 6-3 Duncan Phyllis dr. rm. sat. old books, records, Depression era & etched glasses, pic- tures, tables, lamps, etc. kitchenware & more. 2091 Robb Rd. (off Rudge Rd.) FANTASTIC SALESMEN'S SAMPLES SAT 11/30 8AM-2PM 296 SANTA FE DR (off Divisadero) Kitchen items Plus Miscellaneous FRIDAY 11/29 ONLY 8am to 3pm 3168 Strawn Circle (off Diablo Shadows) No Early Birds A little bit of everything Misc., kitchen, collectibles, gifts, and lots more GARAGE SALE 10:30-1:30 pm Sat. Nov. 30, Sun. Dec. 1 & Mon. Dec. 2, at 2405 Blackstone Dr. 50 yr old collectibles, lots of porce- lain, bead, fine art paint- ing, apple pattern Francis- can wicker set, & clock LARGE GARAGE SALE SAT 11/30 9-3pm 154 Springdale Rd Furn/TV/flat. much more
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Classifieds

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

3010 Bayo Vista Av - \$700,000
1025 Fair Oaks Av - \$487,500
3213 Fir Av - \$363,000
1991 Gresham Dr - \$484,500
1533 High St - \$490,000
325 Kitty Hawk 114 - \$283,000
2207 Lincoln Av - \$609,000
175 Orr Rd - \$548,000
2106 Otis Dr #F - \$328,000
2154 Santa Clara - \$654,000
430 Taylor Av - \$455,000
1147 Verdmar Dr - \$406,000
1552 Verdi St - \$550,000
1203 Walnut St - \$425,000

ALBANY

1505 Posen Av - \$633,000
651 Spokane Av - \$490,000
609 Talbot Av - \$579,000

BERKELEY

1137 Allston Wy - \$450,000
1317 Arch St - \$950,000
535 Arlington Av - \$670,000
1421 Ashby Av - \$393,000
2400 Bonar St - \$405,000
1229 Carleton St - \$420,000
1311 Carlotta Av - \$529,000
2525 College #1 - \$320,000
1390 Dwight Wy - \$235,000
2627 Etna St #C - \$403,000
1209 Henry St - \$425,000
3232 Idaho St - \$318,000
767 Keeler Av - \$530,000
927 Keeler Av - \$552,000
1110 Monterey Av - \$505,000
1231 Neilson St - \$410,000
1425 Neilson St - \$271,000
1205 Oxford St - \$665,000
1705 Russell St - \$345,000
1649 San Lorenzo - \$530,000
548 Santa Barbara - \$1,058,000
2213 Spaulding Av - \$537,000
202 The Crossways - \$603,000
1364 Tomlee Dr - \$508,000

EL CERRITO

1433 Arlington Bl - \$601,000
705 Gelston Pl - \$525,000
825 Liberty St - \$389,000
145 San Carlos Av - \$450,000
1162 Shevlin Dr - \$465,000

EL SOBRANTE

617 Donna Mae Ct - \$289,000
379 Joan Vista St - \$194,000
5317 Ridgeview 10 - \$195,000

EMERYVILLE

4 Anchor F243 - \$290,000
6363 Christie 1524 - \$345,500
6363 Christie 927 - \$420,000
9 Commodore A213 - \$404,000
3 Commodore B254 - \$174,000

KENSINGTON

360 Coventry Rd - \$585,000
433 Ocean View - \$700,000

OAKLAND

1546 36th Av - \$399,000
1060 37th St - \$397,500
2619 38th Av - \$200,000
1200 39th Av - \$350,000
952 42nd St - \$369,000
2019 50th Av - \$207,000
846 56th St - \$442,000
2326 65th Av - \$268,000
2012 69th Av - \$420,000
940 72nd Av - \$219,000
1571 76th Av - \$250,000
2679 76th Av - \$236,500
1175 78th Av - \$247,000
1339 84th Av - \$211,000
1039 86th Av - \$140,000
2315 87th Av - \$300,000
1177 92nd Av - \$273,000
2105 92nd Av - \$322,000
1910 98th Av - \$337,000
1433 Barrows Rd - \$730,000
2724 Best Av - \$350,000
33 Bowles Pl - \$875,000
4430 Briar Cliff Rd - \$510,000
3846 Buell St - \$786,000
9436 C St - \$215,000
240 Caldecott #117 - \$370,000
723 Calmar Av - \$620,000
926 Chester St #G - \$356,000
5669 Colbourne Pl - \$1,115,000
5906 Colby St - \$688,000
3121 Coolidge Av - \$235,000
9150 Crest Av - \$420,000
4653 Davenport Av - \$400,000
2522 East 11th St - \$269,000
2544 East 16th St - \$340,000
2422 East 21st St - \$502,000

3076 East 22nd St - \$230,000
2744 East 23rd St - \$269,000
2635 East 25th St - \$238,000
1123 Elmhurst Av - \$250,000
1627 Excelsior Av - \$459,000
6058 Fairlane Dr - \$925,000
6230 Fairlane Dr - \$730,000
2775 Fruitvale Av - \$320,000
3001 Galindo St - \$394,000
2914 Georgia St - \$356,000
3750 Harrison #302 - \$305,000
2227 High St - \$262,000
7519 Hillside St - \$180,000
5333 Holland St - \$258,000
9922 Holly St - \$310,000
5350 Lawton Av - \$727,000
3878 Loma Vista Av - \$328,000
6224 Manoa St - \$785,000
3014 MLK Jr Wy - \$345,000
263 Mather St - \$470,000
2020 Mitchell St - \$325,000
245 Montecito Av - \$205,000
22 Moss Av - \$297,500
8791 Mountain Bl #2 - \$215,000
7806 Ney Av - \$265,000
330 Park View #302 - \$250,000
245 Perkins St #302 - \$365,000
6949 Pinehaven Rd - \$450,000
2523 Potomac St - \$445,000
606 Prospect Av - \$605,000
6320 Roanoke Rd - \$605,000
3100 Robinson Dr - \$630,000
830 Santa Ray Av - \$610,000
6906 Saroni Dr - \$595,000
9311 Sunnyside St - \$285,000
5870 Vallejo St - \$310,000
5856 Virmar Av - \$726,000
7070 Westmoorland - \$820,000
3208 Wisconsin St - \$555,000
3723 Woodruff Av - \$320,000

PIEDMONT

1070 Annerley Rd - \$470,000
2 Blair Av - \$848,500
621 Boulevard Wy - \$595,000
213 Mountain Av - \$1,975,000
1100 Ranleigh Wy - \$639,000

RICHMOND

136 12th St - \$274,000
618 16th St - \$228,000
801 36th St - \$307,000
677 40th St - \$305,000
556 5th St - \$215,000
5829 Arlington Bl - \$250,000

4508 Bell Ct - \$375,000
5314 Conestoga - \$467,000
18 Deep Water Ct - \$460,000
2012 Dunn Av - \$300,000
3319 Garvin Av - \$267,000
5312 Garvin Av - \$267,000
1640 Giaranita St - \$174,000
3145 Keith Dr - \$349,500
3210 Lowell Av - \$290,000
2636 Maricopa Av - \$270,000
1203 Melville #216 - \$182,000
6222 Plymouth Av - \$375,000
2352 Roosevelt Av - \$275,000
5727 Sacramento - \$410,000
3972 Selmi - \$435,500
5227 Sierra Av - \$307,000
5126 Simoni Dr - \$525,000
1518 Solitude Ln - \$449,000
347 South 39th St - \$259,000
1339 South 58th St - \$365,000
245 South 7th St - \$114,000
325 South 7th St - \$200,000
5500 Valley View - \$1,000,000

SAN LEANDRO

1569 151st Av - \$317,000
14599 Acacia St - \$330,000
1823 Alvarado St - \$300,000
13553 Bancroft #14 - \$235,000
850 Bancroft Av - \$425,000
975 Begonia Dr - \$559,000
1351 Breckenridge St - \$379,000
1638 Carpentier St - \$300,000
1636 Charles Rd - \$233,000
2001 Clipper Ct - \$637,000
14808 Crosby St - \$379,000
356 Dowling Bl - \$437,000
89 Dutton Av - \$290,000
16630 Ehle St - \$274,000
16657 Hannah Dr - \$338,000
14843 Juniper St - \$383,000
14752 Lark St - \$379,000
263 Maud Av - \$375,000
2137 Miramar Av - \$350,000
750 Odonnell Av - \$325,000
182 Suffolk Dr - \$329,000
15090 Swenson St - \$370,000
1959 Trombas Av - \$390,000
496 Warden Av - \$419,000
806 Woodgate Dr - \$264,000

SAN LORENZO

15751 P. Largavista - \$335,000
15596 Sharon St - \$125,000
17335 Via Encinas - \$354,000

17262 Via Frances - \$355,000
1757 Via Lacqua - \$355,000
564 Via Pacheco - \$270,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 14
LOWEST PRICE: \$283,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$484,500

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$490,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$633,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$579,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$567,333

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 24
LOWEST PRICE: \$235,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,058,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$513,833

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$389,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$601,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$465,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$486,000

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$194,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$289,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$195,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$226,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$174,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$420,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$345,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$326,700

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$585,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000

AVERAGE PRICE

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 1
LOWEST PRICE: \$194,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$484,500

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$490,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$633,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$579,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$567,333

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 1
LOWEST PRICE: \$215,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$215,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$215,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$215,000

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 1
LOWEST PRICE: \$300,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$300,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$300,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$300,000

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 1
LOWEST PRICE: \$354,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$354,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$354,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$354,000

This list is provided by Wells & Bennett, a real estate company that obtains information from the County Assessor's Office. Neither Wells & Bennett nor this newspaper guarantee the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions are referred to CalResource. Call 209-365-6663.

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531-7000
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124 DUNCAN WAY, OAKLAND

Charming Cedar shingle cottage with 2 bedrooms and 1 1/2 bathrooms. Enjoy the large living room with fireplace and the cozy dining area. The updated kitchen has a breakfast bar. Garage with interior access. Large lot with room for expansion.

Heidi Kearsley \$495,000
531-7000 x295



666 OAKLAND AVE # 401, OAKLAND

3/2. Fabulous Penthouse, 2 levels, tile entry and kitchen. Remodeled kitchen with breakfast area. Great views, private Redwood deck. Washer/dryer hookups.

Patsy Buhler \$375,000
531-7000 x238



360 VERNON ST # 108, OAKLAND

2/1.5. Bright & sunny condo. Beautifully maintained tile wall to wall carpet, nice deck with nice outlook, very peaceful.

Patsy Buhler \$375,000
531-7000 x238

BY APPOINTMENT

NEW MEDITERRANEAN MASTERPIECE

Exceptional attention to detail and superior quality defines this marvelous villa. Graceful rooms are adorned in rich, warm colors. Four bedrooms, including an incredible master suite with "Roman's Spa" bath, chef's kitchen, home office, wine cellar & huge party suite. Gorgeous setting with Golden Gate views.

Mary Neuberger \$1,799,000
531-7000 x251 or 485-7251

STUNNING NEW CONTEMPORARY CRAFTSMAN

With drop-dead panoramic views. Sophisticated yet very livable floor plan, marvelous color palette, great outdoor spaces. Four bedrooms, four and one-half baths. Absolutely gorgeous.

Mary Neuberger \$1,799,000
531-7000 x251 or 485-7251

7172 NORFOLK RD, OAKLAND

Superb 2 year old custom home designed and built by August Co. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, secluded location near open space, beautiful Bay views. Desirable Claremont Hills location.

Mary Neuberger \$999,000
531-7000 x251

STUNNING VICTORIAN IN ALAMEDA

This has it all. Originality, poise, charm. Top locale. 5+bd/4ba plus den. 12' ceilings on main level, pocket doors, tastefully updated kitchen, new furnace, paint, great yard and home for extended family.

Frank Hennefer \$660,000
531-7000 x235 or 654-6461

670 41ST STREET, NORTH OAKLAND

North Oakland duplexes. Large level lot w/ 2 duplexes. Duplex has 2bd's each unit. Hardwood floors, big living room, bedrooms, plus large eat-in kitchen. Rear duplex, 1 bd w/ living rooms, wood flrs, lots of parking. Must see.

Frank Hennefer \$375,000
531-7000 x235 or 654-6461

676-41ST STREET, NORTH OAKLAND

N. Oakland house plus duplex. Relax w/ fireplace or on yard. All spacious units with minimum 2bd units. 2 w/ nice size bonus rooms. Nice hardwood floors, lots of walk to BART. Great for owner-occupant.

Frank Hennefer \$375,000
531-7000 x235 or 654-6461

TRIPLEX PLUS VACANT LOT, NORTH OAKLAND

Solid 1950's construction, three 2-bedroom units, plus 4,000 sq.ft vacant lot, Oakland/Berkeley/Emeryville border.

Stan Hammond \$375,000
531-7000 x246

PRICE REDUCED!

Large and sunny 2+ bedroom 2 bath home with new interior paint, carpet. Detached garage and large corner lot.

Stan Hammond \$375,000
531-7000 x246

LAND

BAY VIEW LOT CLAREMONT HILLS

Make an offer, start building your dream home next to some of the most beautiful homes in the East Bay. Over 9100 sqft. of your own kingdom.

Heidi Kearsley \$499,000
531-7000 x295 or 485-7295

DEVELOPERS! BUILDERS! LOOK AT THIS

Three large contiguous upslope lots with lush canyon views. All for \$450,000. Great location, serene and peaceful. Call for more information.

Carol Robbiano \$450,000
531-7000 x292

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND
531-7000

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SPORTS

• Friday, November 29, 2002 •

Section C

Albany's NCS title bid comes up short

Cougars are upset in a North Coast Section Division IV championship match by St. Mary's of Napa

By Pete Elman
CORRESPONDENT
ALBANY — The No. 1 seed Albany High School girls volleyball team went into the North Coast Section Division IV championship match looking to take the NCS title and fifth in the state, but the Cougars ran into a hungry underdog that gave up.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

NCS, coach Jon Segall and his senior-laden came into the contest with a swagger. They left humbled.

"I'm not happy right now," he said after the loss. "They're a good team, but we just weren't on the top of our game. We were tentative, nervous and out of rhythm."

The Braves, (32-7) came into the contest on the heels of a dramatic five-game semifinal win Thursday over Piedmont.

Led by fiery junior Lizzy Nuss (14 kills, four blocks, two aces), the Braves gave notice early that Albany was in for a fight.

The match started out auspiciously for Albany, as the shorter and younger Braves jumped out to a 5-1 lead. But two big blocks by senior Dimphy Sasse brought the Cougars back to a 9-9 tie and the Cougars reeled off four more straight points.

Behind 13-9 and looking at a

long ride back home, Justin-Siena used a combination of great saves and well-executed kills, stormed back, reeling off six straight points to win the game.

Junior setter Heather Dunn (10 kills, 16 assists) kept her younger teammates focused. It's something she's no doubt used to — her sisters Melissa and Stephanie, both sophomores, are in the Braves' starting lineup.

"We should have won that first game — that really cost us," Segall said.

The Cougars, however, had seen this happen last week in the BSAL title match with St. Mary's, and came out for the second game fired up. But with the score 10-2 and Albany on one of its rolls, the Braves bit back.

With the athletic Nuss making plays, the Braves battled to within 13-12, but another huge block by Sasse and a great save by setter Delaney Danielson (24 assists) gave Albany the game, 15-12.

But Justin-Siena would not wilt. Behind several terrific digs and well-placed kills by Nuss the Braves kept battling, taking the third game 15-8.

Segall commented on the flow of the match.

"It was a roller coaster out there tonight," he said. "I saw us do some great things and some not-so-great things that we haven't done this year."

Albany, showing its championship mettle, stayed in the contest as Sasse, Julie Hirano (eight kills) and captain Katie Jensen (14 kills in 25 attempts) scored key points to help Albany take the fourth game 15-12.

With the crowded gym roaring, the two teams took the court for a fifth game. Both squads were emotionally and physically spent — neither team played more than one sub the entire match. Whoever blinked last would hoist the title banner.

Using rally scoring, the de-

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 2



KIRSTEN BENDER of Albany (5) tries to block a shot by St. Mary's Natalie Bogan during last week's NCS Division IV semifinal.

PREP FOOTBALL

Farmers outdo Yellow Jackets

■ Hayward defense strangles Berkeley in an NCS playoff opener

By Kibby Kleiman

BERKELEY — Berkeley High School, which built an undefeated league season on the strength of its defense, ran into a defense that proved to be even more stingy.

Berkeley struggled to minus-2 yards of total offense in losing its opening round North Coast Section 4A playoff game, 24-0 to Hayward on Saturday night.

The Yellow Jackets (10-1) managed only three first downs and were unable to generate offense either on the ground or through the air.

The Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League champions rushed for minus-24 yards, and threw four interceptions.

Hayward (10-1) threatened early, and wore down a Berkeley defense that spent more than two-thirds of the game on the field.

The Farmers' first score came late in the first quarter when Stevelan Harper took an inside handoff 25 yards for a touchdown.

In the second quarter, No. 4 seeded Hayward took control of the game. The Farmers opened up their lead when quarterback John Russell juiced the Berkeley defense on a fake and strolled in for 5-yard score.

After a Yellow Jackets turnover, the Farmers used a 10-play drive to extend their lead to 21-0 and added a last-second

Hayward 24, Berkeley 0

Hayward	7	17	0	0	—24
Berkeley	0	0	0	0	—0

H — Harper 25 run (Rayatkah kick)	H	B
H — Russell 5 run (Rayatkah kick)	16	3
H — Sapiga 1 run (Rayatkah kick)	34-119	23-(24)
H — Rayatkah 29 FG	15-31-2	4-16-4

First downs	16	3
Rushing yards	34-119	23-(24)
Passing yards	15-31-2	4-16-4
Total offense	190	22
Fumbles/lost	308	-2
Individual statistics	2/1	2/1

Records: Hayward 10-1, Berkeley 10-1

field goal to head into the locker room up 24-0.

But defense was the story of the night, and Berkeley coach Matthew Bissell had nothing but praise for Hayward, which will take on De Le Salle on Friday night in the semifinals.

"We ran up against a really tough Hayward team," Bissell said. "They played defense with intensity, and we were never able to get anything going on offense."

Bissell said that although his team was shut down Saturday, that shouldn't detract from a memorable season.

"I told my players that they can hold their heads up. We did something that hasn't been done on this campus in 28 years, and that's to go undefeated in league."

"This is just a step in building a program, and that's what we began here this season."



CHRISTOPHER WATSON pulls in an interception during Berkeley's 24-0 loss to Hayward on Saturday.

Miramonte comes alive to demolish St. Mary's, 42-8

After a close game during the first half, Matadors get their offense going and turn the game around

By Jennifer Starks

For a while, it appeared the St. Mary's High School football team was going to hang with top-seeded Miramonte.

After being held scoreless in the first quarter, the high-powered Matadors got back on track with a 42-8 win at Miramonte.

The Matadors (11-0) recovered a fumble on the Panthers' 15-yard line and took only one play to get into the end zone for a 14-0 halftime lead. Miramonte quarterback Taylor Humphrey connected with receiver Jon Hellam with just 38 seconds left in the first half.

"We came out pretty well," St. Mary's coach Jay Lawson said. "I thought we were one turnover away from being down 7-0 at halftime. Miramonte did a really good job. They came out in the second half and jumped on us. That's when they put the game out of reach."

Humphrey completed 15 of 26 passes for 152 yards. He threw three touchdown passes.

As effective as the Matadors' passing game was in the first

"We came out pretty well. I thought we were one turnover away from being down 7-0 at halftime."

—St. Mary's coach Jay Lawson

half, it was their running game that troubled St. Mary's (4-6-1) in the second half. Miramonte junior Dominic Carrie scored two touchdowns in the second half, one coming on a 35-yard run. He finished with 75 yards on 11 carries.

"He's a special player," Mira-

Miramonte 42, St. Mary's 8

St. Mary's	0	0	14	14	—42
Miramonte	0	0	14	14	—42

M — Gant 24 pass from Humphrey (Sassano kick)

M — Hellam 15 pass from Humphrey (Sassano kick)

M — Howsapan 15 pass from Humphrey (Sassano kick)

M — Carrie 35 run (Sassano kick)

M — Tool 18 run (Sassano kick)

SM — Murphy 4 run (White pass from Murphy)

First downs 17 | 9 |

Rushing yards 24-198 | 24-73 |

Passing yards 15-26-1 | 13-27-1 |

Passing yards 130 | 145 |

Total offense 350 | 218 |

Fumbles/lost 3/2 | 2/2 |

Individual statistics | |

Rushing: M — Gant 11-75, Tool 3-73, Howsapan 1-22, Korbish 5-21, O'Neil 1-5, Gant 1-4, Humphrey 1-1

22, SM — Murphy 11-51, Hives 8-10, White 2-8, Tully 3-4

Passing: M — Humphrey 15-26-1 152, SM — Tully 2-8-1 2, Murphy 11-18-0 143

Receiving: M — Hellam 5-43, Gant 4-48, Howsapan 4-39, Thompson 1-18, Carrie 1-4, SM — Coogler 5-50, White 4-47, Keyes 2-28, O'Connell 1-11, Hives 1-4-8

Records: Miramonte 11-0, St. Mary's 4-6-1

monie coach John Wade said. "He's been hurt for most of the year and doesn't have a lot of game experience. But when he gets going, he's hard to stop."

The Panthers struggled to move the ball against the Matadors' tough defense. They were unable to get a first down until late in the second quarter and did not get on the board until 44 sec-

onds remained in the game.

Steve Murphy, who spent part of the game at running back and part at quarterback, scored on a scamper from 4 yards out. He found Chris White for the two-point conversion.

"Our defense has really been playing well," Wade said. "Especially in the last five weeks."

PREP CROSS COUNTRY



GABRIELA RIOS-SOTELO of St. Mary's nears the finish line. She placed second in Division IV.

Albany's Carey gets state berth

By Phil Jensen

TIMES STAFF WRITER

HAYWARD — Before his North Coast Section Division IV boys cross country race Saturday, Albany High School's Sean Carey wasn't quite sure what to expect.

But the junior looked like a seasoned veteran on the three-mile Hayward High School course. After crossing the one-mile mark in fifth place, Carey kept moving up and eventually finished second, earning a spot in the California Interscholastic Federation State Cross Country Championships next Saturday at Woodward Park in Fresno.

"I'm very excited," Carey said. "It's the first (state berth) for a long time for Albany."

Carey, the Bay Shore Athletic League champion, charged into third place in the second mile of the race, then began whittling down the advantage held by Willits' Kelly Clark, who was in second. Carey caught Clark before the course's final hill in the third mile and finished strong with a time of 16 minutes, 22 seconds. John Figueiredo of Arcata won the race in 15:53.

Carey wasn't the only local competitor to qualify for the state championships. St. Mary's Gabriela Rios-Sotelo finished second in the Division IV girls race, and Berkeley's Alex Enscoe placed third in the Division I boys race.

NCS team qualifiers for the state meet were based on a formula that included the most recent four-year history of each section's performances in each division at the state meet. Two teams qualified in the Division I boys and girls races, and four squads earned state berths in every other division race except Division IV boys, which had three qualifying spots. The top five individuals who finished in the top 12 and who were not on

See NCS, Page 2

Steinbeck

Word troupe brings the book "Of Mice and Men" to life. Page C3

Jack Tucker

■ If you're looking for turkeys or hams you won't find them on local stages. Page C3

It's showtime

■ Capsule reviews and showing times are your guide to going to the movies. Page C4

Film

■ "Treasure Planet" takes a classic story and pushes it to new frontiers it has no business being in. Page C5

[illegible]

Arts



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

You have to keep TV in its place

WENT OUT and bought a new TV the other day. I paid \$200 for my last one, a 19-inch, seven years ago to a neighbor who reconditions TVs for VCRs. I only bought a new one because my adult daughter wanted one, so I gave her my Magnavox.

television plays a much bigger part in most people's lives than it should. I doubt that the last words I utter will be "I wish I'd watched more TV."

now have a bigger, 25-inch. Shopping for it was a real experience. I hit Target, Best Buy, and a bit dis- (I'm not terribly surprised) that few people will even get a set unless the screen's at least 27 inches. "Most people want a lot larger than that," a salesperson said.

Why? This 25-inch job looks like a monster in my living room. Long ago I came to the conclusion that television plays a much bigger part in most people's lives than it should. I found that telltale bluish glow coming from most homes. The new tube is, like the old one, the only TV in our house. My wife has always refused to let a TV into our bedroom—just like she wisely refused to let the TV stay on during dinner when our kids were growing up.

My wife was in the Bay Area one day, plugging his new TV into the changed American family. "Joined at the hip," Gore mentioned this statistic: Two-thirds of American families today do not eat dinner together. And he says that do, half have TV on.

Today, when we eat, not only does the TV go on, but we dial our own number to make our phone off the hook. It's important, they'll tell you. I am convinced that a TV is a big reason both our kids read at least one book a week, can carry on intelligent conversations, and rarely watch TV.

After not having cable for a while, I'd love to have a satellite dish. I did years ago, but I got a dish, I'd be the amount of time I'd be watching TV, which at the national average, but still too much. Unlike some people, I do not dislike TV. I don't think there's usually something wrong somewhere. But there's that stack of New York Times. Or it's a sunny day and there's a hiking trail to be enjoyed. I doubt that the last words I utter will be, "I wish I'd watched more TV."

Then, people often ask, "How do you review shows? Simple: The TV and cable networks send them to me, usually in advance. That way, I can watch and choose exactly what to re-

view, like ill-mannered and corrupt officials, and be kept in my proper place in our home. She has this new, bigger one. My son, who lives in the city, recently sold his car to that, but I was not him.

Comments? E-mail billmann@sonic.net



JAIME K. BENEN

ACTORS, from left, Brian Keith Russell, Matthew Chavez and Mark Phillips perform in Word for Word's production of "Cannery Row (Chapters 1-7)."

Word for Word: No script doctors needed

By **Brian Kluepfel**
CORRESPONDENT

"Basically we create a pop-up book onstage," said JoAnne Winter of Word for Word Theater Company, whose production of John Steinbeck's "Cannery Row" runs through Dec. 1 at the Julia Morgan Theater. Winter, with artistic partner Susan Harloe, has been making the magic of literature come alive, one word at a time, in California theaters and schools for a decade.

Harloe's book-to-stage experience began in Seattle, where she was part of John Billingsley's Bookit ensemble. When she relocated to the Bay Area in the early '90s, long-time friend Winter asked her, "Can we do something like that here?" The pair was fortunate to find a receptive environment for their idea in the Z Space Studio in San Fran-

cisco's Mission District, where they began as artists in residence but are now a permanent fixture.

Library beginning

Word for Word began as a touring company in California libraries and schools, but a sold-out run of Edith Wharton's "Xingu" convinced Winter and Harloe that they could expand their audience. WFW now has two or three theatrical productions per year in addition to their spring and fall school tours.

They've even brought the magic of English-language books to France, where they've been invited for the past six years to read at American libraries throughout the country.

Realizing the significance of Steinbeck's 2002 centennial, Winter and Harloe puzzled over an appropriate selection of the Sal-

nas native's work. The Charter Group, a "think tank" of WFW, read aloud to each other from several books. In the end, "Cannery Row's" magic won them over.

"We really fell in love with the stories and the characters," Winter said. "That place has so much personality, and the language is very poetic," she said. In terms of artistic considerations, "It had the right mix of characters and story."

"There were a lot of things we liked about it," Harloe said. "It's his funniest book, but because it was written during World War II, there's a tone of darkness to it. And I love the way he writes about people who were considered misfits in such a human way."

See WORD, Page C5

PERFORMANCE

What: "Opening the Book: Cannery Row" by John Steinbeck (Chapters 1-7)

When: 8:30 p.m. on Fri. Nov. 29 and Sat. Nov. 30; 5 p.m. Sun. Dec. 1

Where: Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley 510-845-8542 (www.juliamorgan.org)

Tickets: \$23-\$25

Call: 925-798-1300

Also: Friday evening's performance features a post-performance discussion on Steinbeck with Central Valley native Gerald Haslam, author of "Straight White Male" and "The Great Central Valley: California's Heartland" (with Stephen Johnson and Robert Dawson).

No turkeys or hams on theater bills

THE WORD "SPELLBINDING" exudes such a whiff of ballyhoo that it's usually a good idea to skip it in describing a theatrical production unless it says exactly what you mean. Such an exact occasion has arisen in Word for Word's presentation of John Steinbeck's "Cannery Row (Chapters 1-7)" at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley.

These depression-era tales of life among the sardine canneries of California's Monterey Peninsula do indeed bind us with a spell as they are spoken "word for word" as Steinbeck wrote them.

The spell "Cannery Row" weaves is a combination of numerous elements.

Director Sandra Langsner Crows' stately pace, almost slow-motion at times, imparts a fitting dream-like quality to the production. This aura lifts the piece above the hard and sordid reality of the time and place Steinbeck wrote about.

The simple staging—movable flats in muted colors, plain boxes, small ramps—is effective and unobtrusive. Credit is due Mikiko Uesugi (scenic designer), Jim Cave (lighting designer), Tucki Bailey (sound designer) and A. René Walker (costume designer), along with the rest of the technical crew.

And, with its dark, mellowed wooden paneling the Julia Morgan theater itself retains an aura of the time long past when it served as a church.

But it is the actors of this unique company who ultimately give creative, personal presence and magic to the interpretation.

Brian Keith Russell as Mack, a principal denizen of Cannery Row and the founder of the regally named Palace Flophouse, is a standout. Equally on target for their sensitive reading are Mark



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

Phillips as Doc and Matthew Chavez as Hazel. (Mom, hoping for a girl, had already picked out the name and saw no reason to change it when she had a boy.)

Patricia Silver excels as Dora, who runs the bordello. John Shin provides a compassionate Lee Chong, around whose grocery story much of the action hinges.

But this is essentially an ensemble piece and everybody contributes to the binding spell of this poignant tale about the survival of the dispossessed. As a bonus, "Cannery Row" is probably Steinbeck's funniest novel. The flavor is still there.

"Cannery Row (Chapters 1-7)" plays tonight and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. and closes after Sunday's 5 p.m. performance. As the company always does following its Friday night shows, it has arranged for a discussion following tonight's performance, this one with a Steinbeck scholar.

Tickets are \$25, with discounts offered for seniors and students. Call 415-437-6775.

REP ALSO CASTS SPELL

A spell of a different sort is cast by the West Coast premiere of Salman Rushdie's magical tale, "Haroun and the Sea of Stories," playing at the Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley, through Jan. 7.

Rushdie's stories are based on tales he remembers hearing from his father as a child that he, in turn, told his son.

This is a dream-world of adventures in a place of water-giants and mechanical birds where



THE RICHARD BAY Puppet Theatre brings a family holiday show to the Contra Costa Civic Theatre on Dec. 6.

chatter and silence battle for control and a boy must follow an elusive path toward adulthood.

A great deal of the enchantment of this production, directed by Dominique Serrand, is due to the setting. The Roda's lofty stage and the many bells and whistles of stagecraft magic called into play by the tech designers make the show work.

Tickets for "Haroun and the Sea of Stories" are \$10 (for standing room) to \$54, depending on the day of the week and type of ticket. Group, senior

and student discounts are available. Call 510-647-2949 or toll-free at 888-4BRTix.

SHUN 'HAM,' 'TURKEY': Things always get a bit confusing around Thanksgiving time for a column about the theater. You'd like to inject a seasonal note. But the trouble is those lip-smacking centerpieces on so many groaning boards yesterday. Two have theatrical connotations, neither flattering. Turkey, besides being the

See THEATER Page C5

EVENTS

POPULAR MUSIC

ASHKENAZ — Zulu Spear, Lutainga, Nov. 29, 9:30 p.m. \$10.
Calypso Rose, Nov. 30, 9:30 p.m. \$15.
Toids, Farmers Market, Dec. 3, 8:30 p.m. \$10.
Tee Fee Swamp Boogie, Dec. 4, 8 p.m. \$9.

Buffalo Soldier, Shashamani Soundsystem, Lion Heart Soundsystem, Dec. 6, 9:30 p.m. \$10.

"The 3rd Annual Musical Night in Africa" with Kotoja, West African Highlife Band, Nigerian Brothers, Pope Fiyne, DJ Omar, Dec. 7, 8:30 p.m. \$15.

All ages. Free admission for children 12 and under. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054 or www.ashkenaz.com

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — Mystic Roots, Nov. 30, \$7.

Mondays: The Steve Gannon Band, Mz Dec. \$4.

For ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-848-0886

CATO'S ALE HOUSE — Anton Schwartz, Dec. 1.

Christopher Gampier Trio, Dec. 4

Saul Kaye Quartet, Dec. 8
Free. Music from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3349 or www.mscato.com

DOWNTOWN — Rhonda Benin and Soulful Strut, Nov. 29.

Leftover Dreams with Patrice Hahn and Tony Marcus, Nov. 30.

Free. Thursday, 8:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 9:30 p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — Laurie Lewis, Tom Rozum, Todd Sickafoose, Nov. 29 and Nov. 30. \$17.50 to \$18.50.

The Bobs, Dec. 1. \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Kammen and Swan, Dec. 2. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Merrie Olde Christmas Carolers, Dec. 4. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Davka, Dec. 5. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Geoff Muldaur, Fritz Richmond, Eric and Suzi Thompson, Dec. 6 and Dec. 7. \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Music starts at 8 p.m. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761 or 510-762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org

HENRY J. KAISER ARENA — The Other Ones, Dec. 5 and Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.

\$42.50, 10 10th St., Oakland. 510-444-TIXS or www.ticketmaster.com

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER — Quimbombo, Nov. 30, 9:30 p.m. \$10 to \$13.

Vocool, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. \$16 to \$18.

The San Francisco Klezmer Experience, Dec. 4, 8 p.m. \$13 to \$15

Rachel Garlin, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. \$10 to \$12

Domingo de Rumba, Dec. 8 and Dec. 22, 3:30 p.m. Free.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-949-2588 or www.lapenna.org

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — Fleeting Trance, Savant Groove, Groove.org, Nov. 29, \$5.

Holiday Matinee's "Can You Hear Me Now" Tour, Nov. 30, \$8.

Estradasphere, Farmer's Market, People's Bizarre, Dec. 5, 9:30 p.m. \$5

Sundays: The Starry Irish Music Session, Sliding scale.

Mondays, Dance Class and Ceili. Free.

Free. For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082

TRADER VIC'S EMERYVILLE — Jazz at 5, ongoing. With Claudio Medeiros and Carlos Oliveira.

No cover. Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. Trader Vic's Emeryville, 9 Anchor Drive, Emeryville. 510-653-3400.

YOSHI'S — Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra, Dec. 2, \$10.

Anthony Wilson Noriet with Bennie Wallace, Dec. 3, \$16.

Stanley Clarke Band, Dec. 4 through Dec. 8, \$24 to \$28.

Sunday matinees are \$5 per child and \$10 per adult with one child. Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200 or www.yoshis.com or www.ticketmaster.com

CLASSICAL MUSIC

CAL PERFORMANCES — Sweet Honey in the Rock, Dec. 8, 7 p.m. The female a cappella group performs traditional Irish music. In Zellerbach Hall.

\$20 to \$40. University of California, Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way and College Avenue. 510-642-9988 or www.calperforms.berkeley.edu

CHANTICLEER — "A Chanticleer Christmas," Joseph Jennings conducting, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. A program of works by Praetorius, Taverner and Bebi.

\$25 to \$37. First Congregational Church, Dana and Durant, Berkeley. 415-392-4400 or www.chanticleer.org

MUSIC SOURCES — Stefano Fiuzy, fortepiano, Maria Mazzini, flute, Dec. 1, 5 p.m. A program of works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

\$18 general; \$15 students and seniors. 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley. 510-528-1685.

OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL CHOIR — Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. The 17th Annual Christmas concert.

\$25 to \$35. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-625-TIXS or www.ticketmaster.com

SACRED AND PROFANE — A Christmas Ceremony, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. A program of works by Britten and Arie Ramirez.

\$13 to \$15 general; \$10 to \$12 students and seniors. Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1940 Virginia St., Berkeley. 510-524-3611.

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NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Pat Craig, Randy Myers and Mary F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Butler and Chris Hewitt, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Glenn Lovell, San Jose Mercury News; Anthony Breznican, David Germain, Christy Lemire, Tim Molloy, Sheila Norman-Culp, Jocelyn Novack, Malcolm Rittler and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Bruce Westbrook, Houston Chronicle; Jan Stuart, Newsday; Stephen Holden, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times; Evan Henerson, Valerie Kulkenski, Fred Shuster, Bob Strauss and Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Nancy Churnin, Gary Dowell, Tom Maurstad, Chris Vognar and Philip Wuntch, Dallas Morning News; Christopher Kelly and Robert Philpot, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; and Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Batake, Sacramento Bee; Ann Hornaday and Stephen Hunter, Washington Post.

"AUTO FOCUS": The sordid story of sitcom star Bob Crane, who starts the movie as a squeaky clean father of three and ends up bludgeoned to death in a hotel room after a decade of intense sexual debauchery. Greg Kinnear is brilliant as Crane, and so is Willem Dafoe, playing the video nerd who acts as Crane's conduit into promiscuous sex and pornography. Director Paul Schrader's film is smart, nonjudgmental in its own way, and for a fan of "Hogan's Heroes," riveting. But there's a holowness to this whole affair, and we're left with the

sense that all Schrader really wanted to tell us is that sometimes a perversity is just a perversity. — M. Pols. (R: strong sexuality, nudity, language, some drug use and violence.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. **B**

"BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE": Just hours before they killed a dozen classmates and a teacher at Columbine High School, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold went bowling. Was there a connection? Is it logical to blame the sport or, for that matter, any single thing for America's violent nature? "Bowling for Columbine" doesn't have the answers, and really doesn't expect to find them. For documentary writer-director Michael Moore, the asking is what's important. Moore starts "Bowling" with some riffs on the state he grew up in, Michigan, "a gun lover's paradise." Next the film concentrates on the shootings at Columbine High in Littleton, Colo. We see chilling footage of the massacre from the school's security camera tapes, talk to "South Park" co-creator Matt Stone, once a Littleton resident, and find out that Lockheed Martin, one of the world's largest arms manufacturers, is headquartered in the town. What does all this add up to? Certainly nothing conclusive. Moore's approach may be scattershot, so to speak, but he hits some targets. — K. Turan. (R: some violent images and language.) 1 hour, 59 minutes. **B**

"BROWN SUGAR": This romantic-comedy is a hip-hop love story. In 1964, Sidney is a little girl watching break-dancers showing off moves and

rappers swapping lines on a street corner. Pulling her up to stand on a bench so she could see better is a little boy named Dre. Flash-forward to the present and Sidney (Sanaa Lathan) is a hot hip-hop journalist, and Dre (Jay Diggs) is a hot hip-hop producer. Since this is a romantic comedy, you know what to expect — something always almost happens but never quite does, because fate gets in the way. First Dre is getting married to a beautiful attorney (Nicole Ari Parker), and then Sidney is getting engaged to a handsome basketball player (Boris Kodjoe). Will they? Won't they? This movie uses hip-hop as a metaphor for love; for an ineffable energy that makes life worth living. — T. Maurstad. (PG-13: language, adult situations.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. **B**

"COMEDIAN": A pleasure-filled documentary about Jerry Seinfeld's return to his roots in stand-up comedy. Director Christian Charles and producer Gary Streiner follow Seinfeld from one comedy club to another for a year as he builds a new act from scratch. His story is juxtaposed with that of Orny Adams, an obnoxious young comedian ravenous for a taste of Seinfeld-style stardom. The film is a little too carefully crafted to feel absolutely truthful, but it is rich with food for thought about the pains of the creative process, the insecurities of artists and the meaning of success. Oh, and it's funny. — M. Pols. (R: language.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. **B+**

"8 MILE": A handsome version of the old American show-business dream story we all know and love so well.

Eminem, displaying movie star charisma, stars as a character much like himself — a rapper who's trying to rise from a poor and rough background. We've seen this before — from "Saturday Night Fever" to "Flashdance" — yet "8 Mile" is so well made, you can't help but get carried along. — M. Pols. (R: strong language, sexuality, some violence and drug use.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. **B**

"8 WOMEN": Young director Francois Ozon gathers some of the greatest actresses in French cinema — Catherine Deneuve, Fanny Ardant and Isabelle Huppert, to name a few — and doesn't know what the heck to do with them. The story is equal parts Agatha Christie and Douglas Sirk as eight women are stranded in an isolated country manor with the body of a dead man. Whodunnit? Who cares! The best part of the movie is marveling at the actresses on screen. Too bad the situations, dialogue and direction can't approach their talent. — M. Dargis. (R: some sexual content.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. **C**

"FAR FROM HEAVEN": Perhaps only one filmmaker a year finds a new way to make our mouths hang open. This year, it is writer/director Todd Haynes, who bravely attacks our ennui with the last weapon we might have expected, a Douglas Sirk-style overwrought melodrama right out of the repressed 1950s, complete with a Technicolor palette and a cheesy musical score. Julianne Moore stars as a gracious Connecticut housewife who discovers that her loving husband (Dennis Quaid) is actually gay. She tries to put her best pump forward, but her perfect suburban life keeps crumbling around her anyway. A blast of air, albeit deliberately stagnant, up the skirts of the moviegoing public. — M. Pols. (PG-13: mature thematic elements, sexual content, brief violence and language.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. **A**

"FEMME FATALE": After a long slump, director Brian De Palma ("Dressed to Kill," "Body Double") returns to his old tricks — and treats. This slyly but stylish thriller starring Rebecca Romijn-Stamos and Antonio Banderas is about a mysterious woman who's a jewel thief. There are triple crosses, quite a bit of violence and a surprise. It doesn't all add up, but what the heck: This is exquisite, entertaining trash. — B. Strauss. (R: violence, nudity, sex, language.) 1 hour, 54 minutes. **B**

"FOOD OF LOVE": David Leavitt's novel "The Page Turner" is adapted to the screen in this subtle, sophisticated drama. Eighteen-year-old Paul (Kevin Bishop), an aspiring concert pianist, is thrilled to be selected as page turner for the world-famous Richard Kennington (Paul Rhys) for a

performance in Paul's hometown. A few months later, while vacationing with his mother, Pamela Porterfield (Juliet Stevenson), Paul and Richard cross paths in Barcelona. With her marriage broken up, Pamela begins to relax and regain her equilibrium with the advent of Richard, who takes mother and son to dinner every evening and encourages her shopping excursions and self-pampering. Meanwhile, Paul and Richard are supposedly off sightseeing, but end up in Richard's hotel suite, in each other's arms. Across the board, the actors give multifaceted portrayals. An elegant work, "Food of Love" is as consistently engaging as it is revealing. — K. Thomas. (NR: complex adult situations, sexual themes but discreet presentation, some language.) 1 hour, 42 minutes. **B+**

"FRIDA": Salma Hayek and Alfred Molina give superb performances as, respectively, the legendary surrealist artist Frida Kahlo and muralist Diego Rivera in this bio-pic that captures the diverse flavors of Mexico and Manhattan during the first half of the 1900s.

The film's cornerstone is the two artists' stormy, unconventional marriage. Hayek and Molina create a memorable portrait of a tormented but enduring partnership. The film's cameo performers, including Antonio Banderas, Geoffrey Rush, Edward Norton and Ashley Judd, are all good. Like the artists it celebrates, "Frida" is audacious and haunting. — P. Wuntch. (R: nudity, sexuality, language.) 2 hour, 2 minutes. **A-**

"GHOST SHIP": A salvage crew boards a ship that has been drifting, deserted since the 1950s, and encounters some ghosts who want them to stay, forever. Grotesquely gory, riddled with amateur special effects and dumb dialogue. And it's not even scary. Why Julianne Margulies ("ER") ever boarded this ship of fools is the most mysterious thing about this piece of trash. — M. Pols. (R: strong violence, gore, language and sexuality.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. **D-**

"HALF PAST DEAD": After Sascha (Steven Seagal) is shot several times, his heart stops for 22 minutes. When he recovers, he ends up in a maximum-security prison, with Nick Frazier (Ja Rule), a career criminal who has befriended him, and Lester (Bruce Weitz), who is something of a legend for having stolen \$200 million in gold bricks that has never been recovered. Lester is to be the first prisoner executed in the prison's new execution chamber. On hand for the big occasion is the Supreme Court justice who sentenced him. But there's this band of mercenaries, led by a psychotic killer (Morris Chestnut), that breaks into the place to abduct

Lester. And when these mercenaries decide to kidnap the justice's wife, Sascha, Nick and the others are bound to make a few adjustments. School is back in session, dark forces are brewing and wars, with a plan for eradicating any wizards and witches, have Muggle blood. What a shudder — Hermione! — save the day. Just as charming well-cast as the first movie, some spiffy special effects, a thrilling by virtue of its familiarity to not mention its release. — M. Pols. (PG: scary moments, creature violence and mild language.) 2 hours, 40 minutes. **B**

"HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS": The won't be checking their watches but at 160 minutes, director Chris Columbus' second installment of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series is bound to make a few adjustments. School is back in session, dark forces are brewing and wars, with a plan for eradicating any wizards and witches, have Muggle blood. What a shudder — Hermione! — save the day. Just as charming well-cast as the first movie, some spiffy special effects, a thrilling by virtue of its familiarity to not mention its release. — M. Pols. (PG: scary moments, creature violence and mild language.) 2 hours, 40 minutes. **B**

"HEAVEN": This dreamlike comes to us with a very strong provocation, having originally intended as the next project of late great Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski, creator of the "Three Colors" trilogy. After his death, the film was completed and handed it over to director Tylkier ("Run Lola Run") and Polishwoman (Cate Blanchett). Italy attempts to avenge her husband's death through terrorism plan backfires and she ends up in jail, where a policeman (Giancarlo Rubini) falls in love with her. Kieslowski is very much present here, as Blanchett shows and means to fully accept. The film will tell whether loving "Heaven" stems from the memory of Kieslowski or not. It is a fresh affair. — M. Pols. (R: scene of sexuality.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. **A-**

"I SPY": Two of Hollywood's most comic figures, Eddie Murphy and Owen Wilson, star in the troubled big-screen version of the groundbreaking 1990s television comedy, which introduced the Bill Cosby. Murphy is a clown boxer, who, at the behest of his president, teams up with a cynical spy Wilson to thwart some national "evidences" who have an invisible plane from the United States. The script is a classic. It suppresses the extraordinary talents of both men, although not entirely. Some fault also lies with

See REVIEWS, Page 6

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday November 29
Alameda County

Act 1 and 2

2125 Center Street, Berkeley 510-843-3456
● **Bowling for Columbine** (R) 11, 1:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7, 9:45
● **Spirited Away** (PG) 12, 2:40, 8

Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave. Albany 510-843-3456
● **Women** (R) 3:30, 9
● **Frida** (R) 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45
● **Mostly Martha** (PG) 1, 6:30

California Theatre

2113 Kirtledge St., Berkeley 510-843-3456
● **The Ring** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:10, 7:15, 9:30
● **El Crimen del Padre Amaro** 1:50, 4:20, 7, 9:40
● **Punch-Drunk Love** 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:50

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300
● **The Human Body** (NR) 11:30, 2:30, 4:30, 8:30
● **The Living Sea** (Not Rated) 3:30, 5:30
● **Mysteries of Egypt** (Not Rated) 12:30

Elmwood 3

2966 College Ave., Berkeley 510-849-0530
● **24 Hour Party People** (R) 4:05, 9:20
● **Women** (R) 12:05, 4:40, 9:25
● **Femme Fatale** (R) 12:15, 4:45, 9:15
● **igby Goes Down** (R) 2:35, 7:10
● **The Last Kiss** (R) 2:20, 7:05
● **Sweet Home Alabama** (PG-13) 12, 2:15, 7

Renaissance Grand Lake

3200 Grand Avenue Oakland 510-452-3555
● **Mile** (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30
● **Die Another Day** (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 7, 9:45
● **Friday After Next** (R) 12, 2, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15
● **Harry Potter** (PG) 12:30, 4, 7:30

Jack London Cinema

100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320
● **Adam Sandler's 8 Crazy Nights** (PG-13) 11, 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
● **Die Another Day** (PG-13) 12, 3:30, 6:45, 7:30, 9:45, 10:30
● **Emperor's Club** 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 7, 9:35
● **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** (PG) 11:15, 12:30, 2:55, 4, 6:30, 10:05
● **The Ring** (PG-13) 11:35, 2:25, 5, 7:40, 10:15
● **Santa Clause 2** (G) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20
● **Solaris** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:50, 7:15, 9:55
● **Wes Craven Presents: They** (PG-13) 12:45, 3:15, 5:30, 8, 10:20

Renaissance Oaks Theatre

1875 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-526-1836
● **Comedian** (R) 12, 2:15, 4:30, 7, 9:15
● **Spike & Mike's Slick & Twisted Festival of Animation** 3:30
● **Tully** (Not Rated) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15

Parkway Theater

1834 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-814-2400
● **Auto Focus** (R) 7
● **Comedian** (R) 6:30
● **Femme Fatale** (R) 9:45
● **Punch-Drunk Love** (R) 9:15

Piedmont Theatre

4186 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-843-3456
● **Bowling for Columbine** (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
● **Far from Heaven** (PG-13) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10
● **Frida** (R) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-3456
● **Adam Sandler's 8 Crazy Nights** (PG-13) 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
● **Daughter from Danang** (Not Rated) 2, 4:10, 6:15, 8:20
● **Extreme Ops** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30
● **Far from Heaven** (PG-13) 12:05, 2:35, 5, 7:30, 10
● **Jackass the movie** (R) 1:05, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 9:50
● **My Big Fat Greek Wedding** (PG) 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9
● **Real Women Have Curves** (PG-13) 1:10, 3:15, 5:25, 7:40, 9:45
● **Standing in the Shadows of Motown** (PG-13) 1:30, 4, 6:30, 9:05
● **Treasure Planet** (PG) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35
● **Wes Craven Presents: They** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:40

United Artists Berkeley

2274 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-843-1487
Call theater for times
● **Die Another Day** (PG-13) 1
● **The Emperor's Club** (PG) 13
● **Friday After Next** (R) 1
● **Harry Potter** (PG) 1
● **The Ring** (PG-13) 1
● **Solaris** (PG-13) 1

United Artists Emery Bay 10

6330 Christie, Emeryville 510-420-0107
● **Mile** (R) 11:30, 2, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
● **Adam Sandler's 8 Crazy Nights** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
● **Die Another Day** (PG-13) 12, 3:30, 7, 10:15
● **Extreme Ops** (PG-13) 12:30, 3, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
● **Friday After Next** (R) 11:45, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30
● **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** (PG) 11:55, 3:20, 6:45, 10:10
● **The Ring** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8, 10:45
● **Solaris** (PG-13) 11:30, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10:30
● **Treasure Planet** 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
● **Wes Craven Presents: They** (PG-13) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10

Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre

4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-9060
● **Frida** (R) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:20
● **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** (PG) 12:30, 4, 7:30
● **Solaris** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30

Renaissance Park Theatre

3519 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette 925-283-7997
● **Bowling for Columbine** (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:35

Rheem Theatre

350 Park St. Moraga 925-368-3411
● **Mile** (R) 11:50, 4:45, 9:35
● **Die Another Day** (PG-13) 12:45, 4:15, 7, 9:45
● **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** (PG) 11:40, 2:45, 6:15, 9:20
● **The Ring** (PG-13) 2, 7:15
● **Treasure Planet** (PG) 12, 2:10, 5, 7:30, 9:40

West Contra Costa

Century 16 Hilltop

3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345
● **Mile** (R) 2:35, 9:50
● **Adam Sandler's 8 Crazy Nights** (PG-13) 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6, 8:10, 10:20
● **Die Another Day** (PG-13) 1, 3, 4, 5:55, 7:05, 9, 10, 10:30
● **The Emperor's Club** (PG-13) 11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
● **Extreme Ops** (PG-13) 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
● **Frida** (R) 11:30, 2:15, 5, 7:45
● **Friday After Next** (R) 12:15, 2:20, 4:25, 5:45, 6:55, 7:55, 8:45, 9:50, 10:05
● **Half Past Dead** (PG-13) 12:05, 5:10
● **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** (PG) 11:30, 12, 2, 3:30, 7, 10:25
● **Maid in Manhattan** (PG-13) 7:30
● **The Ring** (PG-13) 11:55, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15
● **Santa Clause 2** (G) 12:25, 2:55, 5:30, 8, 10:25
● **Solaris** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55
● **Treasure Planet** (PG) 12:10, 1:10, 2:30, 3:30, 4:50, 5:50, 7:10, 8:10, 10:30
● **Wes Craven Presents: They** (PG-13) 1:15, 3:25, 5:40, 8, 10:15

San Francisco

AMC Van Ness 14

1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-922-4262
● **Mile** (R) 12:25, 3, 5:50, 8:35, 11:10
● **Adam Sandler's 8 Crazy Nights** (PG-13) 11:20, 1:20, 3:35, 5:45, 7:30, 9:35
● **Die Another Day** (PG-13) 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 7:10, 9:40, 10:05
● **The Emperor's Club** 12:20, 2:40, 5, 7:30, 10:05
● **Extreme Ops** 1, 3:30, 5:55, 8:25, 10:45
● **Friday After Next** 12:50, 3, 5:20, 7:50, 10:40
● **Half Past Dead** (PG-13) 4:50
● **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** (PG) 11:30, 12:15, 3:15, 4, 7, 7:45, 10:30
● **Jackass the movie** (R) 2:15
● **Punch-Drunk Love** (R) 12:40, 3:05, 5:40, 8:05, 10:20
● **The Ring** (PG-13) 1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 10

Solaris (PG-13) 12:35, 3:05, 5:25, 8, 10:20

Treasure Planet (PG) 12, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

Wes Craven Presents: They (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55, 12:10

AMC Kabuki 8

1881 Post St. San Francisco 415-931-9800
● **Mile** (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:35
● **Adam Sandler's 8 Crazy Nights** (PG-13) 10:40, 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:10, 10:25
● **Die Another Day** 10:30, 1:15, 4:30, 7:40, 10:45
● **Extreme Ops** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:40, 5, 7:30, 9:55
● **Friday After Next** (R) 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
● **The Ring** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05
● **Solaris** (PG-13) 11:10, 2, 5:10, 8, 10:35
● **Treasure Planet** (PG) 10:55, 1:45, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45

Bridge Theatre

3010 Geary Blvd. San Francisco 415-352-0818
● **Frida** (R) 10:30, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10

Castro Theatre

429 Castro St. San Francisco 415-621-6120
● **Singin' in the Rain** (G) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:20

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore Street, San Francisco 415-352-0810

Far from Heaven (PG-13) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10

Embarcadero Center Cinema

1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 415-352-0810
● **Ararat** (R) 11:20, 2, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05
● **Bowling for Columbine** (R) 12, 1, 2:35, 4, 5:10, 7, 7:45, 9:40, 10:25
● **El Crimen del Padre Amaro** (R) 11:30, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15
● **Real Women Have Curves** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 7:10, 9:20

Lumiere Theatre

1572 California St., San Francisco 415-352-0810
● **Comedian** (R) 2, 4, 6, 8, 10
● **Roger Dodger** (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
● **Standing in the Shadows of Motown** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Opera Plaza Cinema

601 Van Ness Blvd., San Francisco 415-352-0810
● **Women** (R) 1, 4, 6:45, 9:20
● **Auto Focus** (R) 2:30, 7:15
● **Daughter from Danang** (Not Rated) 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40
● **Heaven** (R) 12, 2:15, 4:40, 7, 9:30
● **Nagoyatsai** (PG) 12:15, 5, 9:50

The Red Vic Theatre

1727 Hayes St. San Francisco 415-668-3994
● **100 Ft. Wednesday** (Not Rated) 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

The Roxie Theatre

3117 16th Al Valencia, San Francisco 415-683-1087
● **Fidel** (Not Rated) 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

Loews Theatres Metreon

101 Fourth St., San Francisco 415-369-6200
● **Mile** (R) 11:20, 2:10, 5:30, 8:20, 11:20
● **Adam Sandler's 8 Crazy Nights** (PG-13) 10, 11, 12:10, 1:30, 2:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10, 11:30
● **Die Another Day** (PG-13) 10:50, 12, 2:30, 3:40, 5, 6:10, 7:20, 8:40, 9:40, 10:40, 12
● **The Emperor's Club** (PG-13) 10:45, 1:45, 4:40, 7:50, 10:45
● **Extreme Ops** 10:30, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9, 11:40
● **Friday After Next** (R) 12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8, 10:50
● **Harry Potter** 10:20, 11:50, 1:20, 2, 3:30, 5:40, 7:10, 9:30, 11
● **Maid in Manhattan** (PG-13) 7:30
● **Punch-Drunk Love** 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 10:10
● **The Ring** 10:40, 1:40, 4:50, 7:40, 10:2

Relocation to space earns 'Treasure'

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

DH. TO HAVE been a fly on the wall at the original pitch meeting for "Treasure Planet," a new animated film "Treasure Planet," even imagining the scene like museum quality surreality. Adults, gathered in a room, passing ways to give a new twist to an old tale, throw out the idea of relocating Robert Louis Stevenson's classic "Treasure Island" from the 19th century high seas to futuristic outer space. Be- you know it, someone is mus- ing that Long John Silver could be a supervillain, while someone else sug- gests that the treasure map could be a place of a squall at sea. Then, instead of laughing the thing off as the kind of imagination one has in college, when the inhalation and the ex- hales of Domino's, someone, pre- sently "Treasure Planet's" writ- ing team, Ron Clements and John Musker, who also made "Aladdin" and "The Little Mermaid," rubbed their eyes together and said, "Let's do this!"

The result is a clut- tered mishmash of conflicting times. The key Steven- son characters are there, includ- ing the cunning pirate Long John Silver (Brian Murray) and Jim Hawkins (voiced by "3rd Rock from the Sun's" Joseph Gordon- Lewis, a young boy who sets on

MOVIE REVIEW

- **WHAT:** "Treasure Planet"
- **WITH THE VOICES OF:** Joseph Gordon-Levitt, David Hyde Pierce, Brian Murray, Martin Short, Emma Thompson
- **RATING:** PG (action adven- ture and peril)
- **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 35 minutes

a treasure hunt to parts unknown. But whereas Stevenson's Jim was a 19th century boy who set out to sea on a sailing ship, Clements and Musker's version is a sulky lad with thoroughly modern be- havioral issues (his dad boited a few years back). This Jim and his mother dress as if it is 1850, but just outside the windows of the Admiral Benbow Inn is a docking bay for space ships. Their cus- tomers at the inn are mostly bug- eating aliens, and when Jim gets caught recklessly flying his surf- skateboard-windsurfer contrap- tion, he's brought home by a cou- ple of crabby robots.

One day a sick old sailor (err, make that "spacer") arrives at the Admiral Benbow and hands Jim a small globe covered with un- usual markings. When he, Mom and Benbow regular Dr. Doppler (David Hyde Pierce, aka "Frasier's" Niles) look the thing over, it turns out to be a celestial map, which will lead them to Captain Flint's buried treasure.



IN DISNEY'S "Treasure Planet," Robert Louis Stevenson's character Jim Hawkins lives somewhere in futuristic outer space.

It is generally agreed that wan- dering the galaxy in search of un- told riches might be just the thing to make Jim straighten up and fly right. And he, as a longtime fan of the Captain Flint legend, is happy to go.

They set sail on a contraption that looks like a clipper ship, complete with unfurling sails and decks that need swabbing, but flies like the Starship Enterprise. It's staffed by a crew of creepy aliens and commanded by Cap- tain Amelia (Emma Thompson), a babe so feline you expect her

tail to pop out of her britches and swish across the deck. The coolest crew member — and doubtless the breakout star of the movie — is Silver's pet, Morph, who looks like a wad of pink bubble gum whenever he's not assuming the forms and voices of the rest of the cast.

Some people, including obvi- ously Clements and Musker, would look at an outer space ver- sion of "Treasure Island" and say, "Why not?" Others, including this viewer, will not be able to get over the dumbfounded "Why?"

Clearly Clements and Musker liked the original story, as well they should have (seeing the bones of it in "Treasure Planet" reminds you of how good it was). But apparently they didn't think it exotic enough for today's chil- dren. In their eyes, it needed a "Star Wars" makeover. How else to get in the continual loud ex- plosions and laser guns the Dis- ney of late seems to favor?

The break for the requisite pop song montage — crucial to the Disney formula and set to a Johnny Rzeznik song — might

have seemed out of place in the 19th century, as would the wise- cracking robot and the gassy alien known as a Flatula.

Let's hope the next crazy pitch like this one gets laughed off, otherwise we'll soon be see- ing Huck Finn cruising the length of the Milky Way, accompanied by a Klingon named Jim, while Michael Stipe croons a tune in the background.

Mary Pols can be reached at 925-945-4741 or mpols@cc- times.com.

Reviews

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Wilson and Murphy lack chemistry together, and both seem to be waiting for a straight man to bail out of. — M. Pols. (PG-13: ac- cidental, some sexual content language.) 1 hour, 36 minutes.

"CLASS OF THE MOVIE": The gross ratings of MTV show makes its debut with Johnny Knoxville and company doing point- guard duty that usually involved Johnny. It's crude, obnoxious, and exactly what you'd expect. — M. Pols. (R: dangerous sexual content, drug use, language and nudity.) 1 hour, 30 minutes.

"LAST KISS" ("L'Ultimo Ba- cio") The lively Italian movie is being marketed as a romantic comedy. It's certainly romance, but it's closer to a war movie, set within the context of the 1930s. The soldiers on the front lines are a group of young men and almost marrieds, doing menial combat over issues of honor, fidelity and responsibility. It's a 23-year-old hero, who, so he starts a flirtation with a woman but is quickly school stu- dent. Director Gabriele Muccino on relationships is acute and can make most of the time feel like kissing off dating. — M. Pols. (R: language, sexual content, drug use.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. Italian, with English subtitles. B

Word

PAGE C3

Tableaux
Winter says a common mis- sion of WFW is a tableau of actors, reciting from "That's not at all what the show is about." The produc- tion of "Cannery Row" features professional actors who make the book come alive and unlike a Hollywood in- terpretation, doesn't edit out a single word. The inclusion of every one of the author's origi- nal syllables can cause forebod- ing. "Sometimes you say, 'How the heck are we going to do this?'" said Winter. "But we come up with the most amazing solu- tions. Out of that challenge comes some really interesting work," she said.

In "Cannery Row," the section describing Doc Ricketts' labo- ratory in painstaking detail was a challenge for the actors, she

At 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, Contra Costa Civic Theatre rolls out the Richard Bay Pup- pet Theatre in a holiday show for the whole family. "Uncle Teddy's Christmas Fa- bles" is going to be around for only three shows — the opening next Friday night and two on the following Saturday, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. So listen up.

The stories include Old Bu- ofana from Italy and the legend of how Italian children came to expect candy in their shoes on Epiphany Day. There's also a sleepy bear who rescues a crashed Santa and has to fly his sleigh to save Christmas Day. You'll learn about Arthur, the Trickster Teddy Bear, who

"REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES":

The real woman here is Ana (new- comer America Ferrara), a recent (and pretty) high school grad quite proud of her ample proportions. Ana has been commuting from her home in East Los Angeles to the ritzy con- fines of Beverly Hills High School; she wants to go to college, but there's a formidable obstacle in her way. Ana's mom, Carmen (Lupe On- tiveros), believes that slenderness and marriage should be a woman's only goals. Carmen enlists Ana to work in the family-run garment fac- tory, unwilling to let her daughter enter the modern world or, heaven for- bid, be happy. This film is sweet and sassy, but not afraid of conflict. Its ethnic milieu is genuine, therefore specific, but many of the themes are universal. — C. Vogner. (PG-13: lan- guage, mild sexual content.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B

"THE RING": The film starts with two teens talking about an urban legend — apparently, there's a videotape that, if watched, will induce your death exactly seven days later. One of the girls begins to panic; she watched that very tape, seven days earlier. Minutes later, she's dead. So are the three friends with whom she watched the tape. Naomi Watts plays Rachel, a Seattle newspaper reporter on the trail of this mystery. She watches the tape, she lets her ex- lover (Martin Henderson) watch the tape and then — parental supervision not being her strong suit — she lets her son (David Dorfman) watch the tape. Can you say "Race against the clock"? "The Ring" is directed in an essentially realistic style. For all of its spooky imagery, it's too conventional to ever get under our skin. — C. Kelly. (R: thematic elements, distur- bing images, language and some drug references.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. C-

"ROGER DODGER":

A sharply ob- served reconnaissance tour of the land of cads, in which the attractive Manhattanite Roger (Campbell Scott) prowls, leers, displays in- creasingly boorish behavior and is ultimately brought down by a dart gun loaded with the ammunition of wistful innocence. His teenage nephew, Nick (Jesse Eisenberg), on a college tour of New York but re- ally on a quest to unload his virgin- ity with his womanizer uncle's help, supplies the innocence. The female supporting characters are very well done, including Jennifer Beals and Elizabeth Berkley as a pair of bar- crawlers who find Nick more ap- pealing than his bitter uncle, and Is- abella Rossellini as Roger's thoroughly modern boss, who uses him for sex and dumps him as soon as he becomes tedious. A strong debut for writer/director Dylan Kidd. — M. Pols. (R: sexual content and language.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. B+

"THE SANTA CLAUSE 2": In the original film, Tim Allen played Scott Calvin, a divorced, disgruntled and sardonically funny dad who was shown that he had the potential to be Santa. The magical suit helped. But the real magic was seeing how taking on the responsibility for the whole world's holiday cheer can change a person. This sequel brings Allen back as a Santa who still has personal problems. His son, Charlie (Eric Lloyd), has landed on the "naughty" list after drawing graffiti on school walls. And it turns out there was a "Mrs." clause in the original Santa "clause" that put him in his position: He's got to find a wife before Christ-

mas Eve or he loses all his powers. As with so many sequels, many of the effects are bigger, grander and prettier. And anyone who has ever dreamed of a Santa who knows your heart's desire should feel a little tug at the heart when Santa's own dreams come true. — N. Churnin. (G) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B

"SECRETARY": Romance blooms between a secretary (Maggie Gyl- lenhaal) who craves physical pain and a boss (James Spader) who enjoys inflicting it. Ninety percent of you just said "I'm out." But wait: Di- rector Steven Shainberg's weird lit- tle film, an adaptation of a Mary Gaitskill story, while not for most delicate audiences, has much to offer. For one thing, the remarkable performance of Gyllenhaal. And then there's the movie's nonjudg- mental eroticism, likely to extend a leather-clad glove to tap any num- ber of sexual nerds on the shoulder and send unexpected and embar-assing arousal down their uptight spines. — M. Pols. (R) 1 hour, 44 minutes. B+

"SPIRITED AWAY": The latest from Japanese animation master Hayao Miyazaki ("Princess Mononoke" "My Neighbor Totoro") Miyazaki wrote, directed and did much of the animation for this tale of a 10-year- old girl who accidentally wanders, with her parents, into a spirit world. The adults are promptly turned into a pair of plump pigs. To save them from becoming bacon, the girl must first learn to fend for herself. Miyazaki creates a dreamy visual world that resonates with poignancy, vibrant color and humor, delicately and unobtrusively interwoven with political and social themes, includ-

ing the Japanese work ethic. Techni- cally for children, but equally en- chanting for adults, especially those who value stunning animation. — M. Pols. (PG: some scary moments.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. A

"STANDING IN THE SHADOWS OF MOTOWN": The Funk Brothers were the legendary house band of Motown Records. For decades, the dozen or so keyboardists, guitarists, bassists, drummers and percussionists who created Motown's signature sounds in a tiny basement studio have been living — sometimes dying — in ob- scurity. Documentary filmmaker Paul Justman, working with Allan Slutsky's 1989 book about the group, has rec- tified that historical slight with a soar- ing cinematic love letter to the prodi- giously gifted session cats who, in Justman's words, were "the greatest hit machine in the history of pop mu- sic." — A. Hornaday. (PG: language) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B-

"TULLY": Some quietly moving mo- ments and an intelligent subtlety dis- tinguish this earnest independent fea- ture. Set in a small Nebraska town during one pivotal summer, the film stars Aniston Mount as a womanizer who is forced into confronting key is- sues involving his family. Tully's quiet brother Earl (Glenn Fitzgerald) and Earl's friend (Julianne Nicholson) figure into the story, which is based on an O. Henry story. The cast is first- rate, but the film does have a first- timer feel. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 42 minutes. B-

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SHOW TIMES	
Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows Before 6 p.m.	
Die Another Day THX Digital PG-13 (12:00, 3:30) 6:45 7:30, 9:45 10:30	8 Crazy Nights THX Digital PG-13 (11:00 1:00, 3:05, 5:10) 7:20 9:20
Harry Potter 2: Chamber of Secrets THX Digital PG (11:15 12:30 2:55 4:00 6:30 10:05 4:20) 7:00 9:35	Empire of the Clouds THX Digital PG-13 (11:10 1:45, 4:20) 7:00 9:35
Solaris THX Digital PG-11 (11:45 2:15 4:50) 7:15 9:55	The Ring THX Digital R (11:35 2:25, 5:00) 7:40 10:15
They THX Digital PG-13 (12:45 3:15 5:30) 8:00 10:20	Santa Clause 2 THX Digital PG (11:30 2:00 4:30) 6:55 9:20

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Events

FROM PAGE C3

DANCE

BERKELEY BALLET THEATER — "The Nutcracker," Dec. 6 through Dec. 15. Visions of sugar plum fairies will dance through your head, in the theater's annual production of this holiday tradition.

\$17. Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley, 510-843-4689 or www.berkeleyopera.com.

EAGLES HALL ZYDECO CAJUN

DANCES — Dance lesson, 8 p.m.; concert and dance, 9 p.m. \$11 to \$13. 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 415-285-6285 or ddsdome.home.mind-spring.com/Eagles/content-eagles.html

MUSIC SOURCES — "Baroque Dance Party," Dec. 8, 5 p.m. Learn to dance the Minuet.

\$18 general; \$15 students and seniors. 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley, 510-528-1685

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — "Dance Class & Celi," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

"The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale.

For age 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082.

CODY'S BOOKSTORES — TELEGRAPH AVENUE — Ian Stewart, Nov. 26. The author reads from "Ambushed: A War

Reporter's Life on the Line."

POETRY AT CODY'S — 7:30 p.m. at Telegraph Avenue.

Nov. 24: "Americas review," with Forest Hamer, Murray Silverstein, Judith Stronach and others.

2454 Telegraph Ave. 510-845-7852

FOURTH STREET — Eric Ripert, Nov. 22, 7 p.m. The author reads from "A Return From Cooking."

Mollie Katzen, Nov. 23, 11 a.m. The author reads from "Sunlight Cafe."

1730 Fourth St. 510-559-9500

Free. Readings at 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise. Berkeley.

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY — MAIN LIBRARY — "Being Brave, Showing Courage," through Nov. 29. An exhibition of the winning entries in an art, poetry and essay contest sponsored by the Asian Pacific Fund.

"The Spirit of the Native Americans," through November. An exhibition honoring Native American Heritage Month.

9255 Edes Ave. 510-815-5725

GOLDEN GATE BRANCH — "Toddler Lapset," third and fourth Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Time for stories, songs, rhymes, finger plays and more. For age 6 months to 3 1/2 and their parents or caregivers.

5606 San Pablo Ave. 510-597-5023

DIMOND BRANCH — Book Club, Dec. 1, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. For ages 9 to 13.

3565 Fruitvale Ave. 510-482-7844

LAKEVIEW BRANCH — "Feng Shui Holiday Flowers," Dec. 1, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. With Joyce Hamilton from De Jardin Floral Designs.

550 El Embarcadero, 510-238-7344

TEMECAL BRANCH — "Con Le Notre Mari," through Jan. 8. A historical photo exhibit celebrating Italian Americans' labor contributions.

5205 Telegraph Ave. 510-597-5049

WEST OAKLAND BRANCH — "Chess Workshop for Children," Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 5:20 p.m.

1801 Adeline St. 510-597-5049

Free. Oakland. CLOSED NOV. 28 AND NOV. 29. 510-238-3134 or www.oaklandlibrary.org

BERKELEY POTTERS GUILD — "Peaceable Kingdom," Nov. 30 through Dec. 22. Artists' workspaces are transformed into festive showrooms.

Free. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 731 Jones, Berkeley, 510-524-7031 or www.berkeleypotters.com

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY — CHILDREN'S LIBRARY — Ann Arnold, Nov. 23, 3:30 p.m. The author of "The Adventurous Chef, Alexis Soyer" speaks about her book.

Free. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-644-6100 or www.infopeople.org/bpl

MARCUS BOOK STORE — Derrick Bell, Nov. 23. The author discusses "Ethical Ambition."

At the African American Museum and Library of Oakland, 659 14th St. 510-763-9218

Events are free and start at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Marlin Luther King, Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-652-2344

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA — "Sudden Charns: The Progress of an Aria," Dec. 6, 4:30 p.m. 2002

Bloch Lecturer Roger Parker will talk about his work centered on Italian opera of the 19th century. In Morrison Hall 125.

Free. College Avenue and Bancroft Way, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley, 510-642-2678.

MUSEUMS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY — "Golden Road to Freedom: The African Legacy in California, 1775-1900," ongoing. An exhibit focusing on the role that people of African descent played in later experi-

tions and settlements before the annexation of California.

"The West Oakland Senior Citizen Oral History Project," ongoing. This visual and oral exhibit captures the history of some of West Oakland's senior treas-

ures. Featured are 51 black-and-white photographs and recorded conversations, including ones by Dr. Marcella Ford, Ruth Beckford, Anthony Martinez, and Alonzo Fields.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland, 510-637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org

EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS — A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum.

Free admission; \$2 guided tour. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland, 510-763-0141.

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM — through December. The museum features extensive displays of operating model railroads constructed by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. Covering some 10,000 square feet, steam and modern diesel-powered freight and passenger trains operate in O, HO and N scales on separate layouts, as well as narrow gauge and trolley lines. Of special interest is the Tehachapi Pass and Loop on the N scale layout, showing how the multiple engine trains traverse the gorges and tunnels, passing over themselves to gain altitude to cross Tehachapi Summit just east of Bakersfield. In addition the layouts include such famous railroad landmarks as Nilies Canyon, Donner Pass, and the Oakland Mole where transcontinental passengers were ferried across San Francisco Bay from their arriving trains. The displays are built and operated by the 68-year-old East Bay Model Engineers Society.

\$3 general; \$2 seniors and children under age 12; 7 family maximum. Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, 900-A Dornan Drive, Point Richmond, 510-234-4884 or www.gsmrm.org

MAGNES MUSEUM — "Hidden in the Walls: The Time Capsule through San Francisco's Lost Sanctuary," through Feb. 16. Inspired by a recent discovery of a time capsule, the exhibition reveals the untold story of a pioneer congregation and the spirit of a changing city.

"Stephanie Snyder: Hamakon (The Place)," through Feb. 16. A mixed-media installation examining the intersection of sacred space, religious practice and historical memory.

"Sharing the Screen: Israelis and Palestinians in the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival," through Feb. 16. A cinematic exhibition featuring a dozen film excerpts exploring Jewish-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian themes.

SECOND SUNDAYS — A series of programs that begin at 2 p.m. Free with museum admission.

Dec. 8: Discussion: Israelis and Palestinians on Film.

\$4 adults; \$3 students and seniors; children under 12 free. Monday through Thursday, noon to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, 415-591-8800 or www.magnesium.org

MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM — "First Sight: Encyclopedia of Childhood," Dec. 3 through Dec. 15. An exhibition of works by Dale Kistemaker. Reception, Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"Other Anisacs," closing Dec. 1. A series of letters from other women named Anissa by Anissa Mack. "Rendering," through Dec. 15. An exhibition of works by Jeannette Louie.

Free. Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-2164 or www.mills.edu/MCAM/mcam.home.html

MUSEE DES HOMMAGES — "Masterworks Copies by Guy Colwell," ongoing. A new museum of masterwork recreations of famous European paintings by Colwell. The paintings, which cover a wide spectrum of European paintings from Van Eyck in the 15th century to Picasso in the 20th century, are full-scale, faithful copies of works by famous artists of the past, created in an attempt to understand the secrets of these great artists. The museum does not have regular hours so call ahead when planning a visit.

Free. 2026 9th St., Berkeley, 510-841-4210 or www.ateiler9.com

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA — "Espiritu Sin Fronteras: Ofrendas for the Days of the Dead," closing Dec. 1. The museum's 9th annual exhibition of altars created by various artists, community groups and students in celebration of the Mexican and Mexican American tradition of "Los Dias de los Muertos, Days of the Dead." The exhibition examines the practice of this tradition in California and its influence on contemporary artists exploring new forms of expression.

"Wild Wings: The Waterfowl Art of Harry Curieux Adamson," through March 30. Forty-five oil paintings of California wildlife, including waterfowl migration patterns and the nature of avian flight.

Arte Latino: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, through Jan. 26. Sixty-six paintings, sculptures and photographs highlighting Latino art from across the United

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ODD JOBS BY NANCY SALOMON AND LEE GLICKSTEIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS										DOWN									
1 Fundraising letter, e.g.	50 CPR expert	97 Speak (with)	103 Thrice-time sking gold medalist	104 Make	105 Make	106 Make	107 Make	108 Make	109 Make	110 Make	111 Make	112 Make	113 Make	114 Make	115 Make	116 Make	117 Make	118 Make	119 Make
7 Kiln users	51 Stuffed	98 North Carolina university	100 Hit man of the Year?	101 Make	102 "Dang it all!"	103 Clamorous	104 Charges	105 Something to take before you take off?	106 Operer	107 Comprehension	108 Karl of "The Streets of San Francisco"	109 Snide asides	110 Sleeve type	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace
14 Harbors	61 Mr. Rogers	101 Make	102 "Dang it all!"	103 Clamorous	104 Charges	105 Something to take before you take off?	106 Operer	107 Comprehension	108 Karl of "The Streets of San Francisco"	109 Snide asides	110 Sleeve type	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?
20 Line of clothing?	62 Ready and willing	103 Clamorous	104 Charges	105 Something to take before you take off?	106 Operer	107 Comprehension	108 Karl of "The Streets of San Francisco"	109 Snide asides	110 Sleeve type	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?
21 Royal band	63 Repay	104 Charges	105 Something to take before you take off?	106 Operer	107 Comprehension	108 Karl of "The Streets of San Francisco"	109 Snide asides	110 Sleeve type	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About
22 Alley name	64 "Dear" one	105 Something to take before you take off?	106 Operer	107 Comprehension	108 Karl of "The Streets of San Francisco"	109 Snide asides	110 Sleeve type	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf
23 Mini stamper?	65 Boggy lowland	106 Operer	107 Comprehension	108 Karl of "The Streets of San Francisco"	109 Snide asides	110 Sleeve type	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find
25 Revolve	66 Waver's word	107 Comprehension	108 Karl of "The Streets of San Francisco"	109 Snide asides	110 Sleeve type	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold
26 Letters at sea	67 "The Admirable Crichton"	108 Karl of "The Streets of San Francisco"	109 Snide asides	110 Sleeve type	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island
27 ___ pro nobis (pray for us): Lat.	68 Boggy lowland	109 Snide asides	110 Sleeve type	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable
28 Place out of place	69 "The Admirable Crichton"	110 Sleeve type	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win
30 Lifework	70 Come together	111 First name debating on Broadway, 1951	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit
31 Caesar's "vidi"	71 Coming to bloom	112 Staff leader?	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more
33 Hardly haute cuisine	72 Caribbean music	113 Customer service agent?	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more	
36 One giving shots on a horse farm?	73 Dye-yielding plant	114 Symbol of strength	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more		
38 First baseman	74 Complete	115 How some medicines are taken	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more			
39 English literary alias	75 Series ender	116 Paris palace	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more				
40 Court sport	76 Telecom giant	117 Crowbar	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more					
42 Rank below a Lt. j.g.	77 Scaccia di "Presumed Innocent"	118 Schleppey?	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more						
43 Japan's P.M., 1964-72	78 Feared fly	119 Tiny soldiers	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more							
44 Like young Abe Lincoln	79 Mafia bad guy	120 Court-appointed guardian?	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more								
45 Days	80 Packed away	121 About	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more									
46 Laid up	81 Packed away	122 Look like a wolf	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more										
48 Singer Taylor	82 Month after Adam	123 Narc's find	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more											
	83 Prot., for one	124 Cold	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more												
	84 Prot., for one	125 Portoferraio's island	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more													
	85 Schooner contents	126 Chantable	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more														
	86 Plot part	127 Squares' win	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more															
	87 Amaz. Sr. or Jr.	128 Declared suit	129 Tearing more																
	91 "The Simpsons" shopkeeper																		
	94 Tearing more																		

States.

"California's Closet: From Flapper to Rapper," through March 2. The exhibit explores how California's cultural diversity, entertainment industry and leisure lifestyle impact the nation's clothing styles, from decorated hippie jeans to alluring Hollywood dresses.

"Solo Flights: The Aerial Photographs of Robert Hartman," through Jan. 12. Featuring twenty-five photographs taken from 1,000 feet above ground utilizing exotic colors, abstract geometry, and infrared color film.

"State of Emergency: Disaster Response in California," through March 30. An exhibition offering a historical overview of disasters beginning with the 1906 San Francisco. The exhibit includes Maggie Hallahan's photography, recovered objects, maps, and emergency response equipment.

"The Rustler Ranch Mastodon Project," ongoing. Visitors are invited to watch staff members of the Natural Sciences Department prepare a nearly complete mastodon for exhibit. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS — Free with museum admission unless noted otherwise.

"Abraxas (Embraces): Art and Performance by Latin Youth," Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Spoken word by Youth Speaks, dance by Alma Latina, theater by Colored Ink and music by La Familia. Free with museum admission.

"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection on videodisks in the History Department Library.

DAYTRIP TOURS — Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Art a la Carte, ongoing. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission.

\$6 general; \$4 seniors and students; free children age 5 and under; second Sundays are free to all. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 688-OAK-MUSE or www.museumca.org

'Solaris' is soulless

■ There are some intriguing elements here, but the movie never brings them all together

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

IN "SOLARIS," writer/director Steven Soderbergh pays homage to the science fiction of his youth, sparse on the gadgetry, heavy on the philosophy. It's seriously hampered by its focus on an oddly bloodless love story, but there's enough provocative, thoughtful "2001" style material about the human identity here to salvage the movie.

In the undated future, a psychologist, Dr. Chris Kelvin (George Clooney), is summoned to a distant space station by its mission commander, his old friend Gibarian (Ulrich Tukur). The Prometheus has been orbiting the planet Solaris, gathering data for years, and of late, mysterious things have been happening aboard the space station. Gibarian thinks Chris can help.

Some far-out thinkers believe Solaris has the power of an enormous brain and the capacity to relate to man, but the company/government that owns the space station has grown frustrated with the inconclusive data Prometheus has been sending back. They would shut the project down if they could just get the last three scientists there, including Gibarian, to leave the place.

Soderbergh sends Chris to Prometheus via a no fuss, no muss spaceship trip that's about as eventful as an elevator ride, signaling his intention to focus on issues, not technology (which may disappoint more modern sci-fi fans). No one greets Chris, and moving cau-

tiously about the place, he sees ominous patches of blood everywhere, then comes upon Gibarian's body. Soderbergh makes these scenes quietly spooky and intensely lonely. We're as disoriented and nervously curious as Chris is.

The other crew members are a mess. Snow (Jeremy Davies, his full power for weirdness unleashed) is a jittery bundle of tics, incomplete sentences and cryptic thoughts, while Gordon (Viola Davis) has locked herself in her cabin. Snow politely suggests that Chris go do the same. "Until it starts happening to you, there's really no point in discussing it," Snow says.

The story is based on Stanislaw Lem's science-fiction novel "Solaris," which was made into a film by Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky in 1972. Soderbergh and his producer James Cameron ("Titanic") were early fans of the Tarkovsky film, which ran at 167 minutes, either a glacial or perfect pace, depending on your perspective. Soderbergh went back to Lem's text to craft his own version of the tale, leaving out Tarkovsky's tangent about Kelvin's dying father, perhaps partially in hopes of delivering a shorter, more commercially viable film.

He focuses instead on a romantic plot involving Chris' wife, the beautiful, tormented Rhea (Natascha McElhone), whose suicide a few years before haunts Chris. Solaris sends him an eerie reminder of her. This is the "it" that Snow described, a sort of visitation that presents intense moral questions for anyone aboard the Prometheus. Are there second chances? Is delusion better than reality? Are our memories of loved ones ever really accurate? We're never clear on what motivates Solaris, and that's what keeps the movie



GEORGE CLOONEY and Natascha McElhone play a psychologist and his dead wife, who seem to reconnect on a distant planet.

spooky and intriguing.

Soderbergh's implication is that Solaris represents faith in physical form. It is religion, pulsing from outer space — Gordon represents the nonbeliever, Chris Kelvin the possible convert and Snow the babbling disciple — but is it safe to believe? We see the planet only as a mass of neon art, but we wonder at its potential for greed, for cruelty. Presumably, what it gives, it can take away.

The romance between Chris and Rhea in all her forms is technically only the conduit to these questions, but our struggle to become invested in it pulls the movie down. We see her and Chris in flashbacks, admiring each other on a train and then meeting at a party, where she seduces him by smirking at him from under her curtain of hair

and he her by quoting Dylan Thomas' poem "And Death Shall Have No Dominion" (great foresight, as it turns out).

As we get to know Rhea as Chris remembers her, we start to wish for his sake he'd fallen for someone else, instead of longing for these lovers to be together. The fault lies partly with the way Rhea is written, as high-maintenance hell, but also with the way McElhone ("The Truman Show") plays her, as one long mocking grin. Her Mona Lisa smile suggests she and Chris are sharing some enormous secret, one we're never privy to. Eventually it comes to feel like a taunt, an aggravation, and her charms, including a pair of stunning upper arms, are lost on us.

Nor do we ever get the full impact of Chris' emotional devas-

tation. Soderbergh played a neat trick with Julia Roberts in "Erin Brockovich," tapping into all that audiences love about her — the earthiness, the humor, the strong will — while imbuing her with a nobility and sense of purpose we'd never known her to have before. He seems to want us to take Clooney seriously here the way we took Roberts seriously as Brockovich.

The difference is, there's nothing in the role of Chris Kelvin that reflects Clooney's natural charms. Without his trademark flirtatious twinkle, he seems hollow. Chris Kelvin is sad, somber, uncertain, the exact opposite of Clooney. Clooney can't connect; there's nothing to tap into (although watching Tarkovsky's "Solaris," you can see why Soderbergh had him in mind: He looks

MOVIE RE

■ **STARRING:** George Clooney, Natascha McElhone, Jeremy Davies, Ulrich Tukur, Viola Davis, Linzy Taylor
■ **RATING:** PG-13 (language, some drug use, and nudity)
■ **RUNNING TIME:** 114 minutes
■ **WHERE:** Opens today in theaters
■ **GRADE:** B-

a bit like Donatas Stern played the original. Clooney has the capacity for an understanding of what it's like to have a broken heart, but it's not evident in "Solaris."

Mary Pols can be reached at 925-945-4741 or mpol@times.com

Events

FROM PAGE 1

NOV. 28. Registration required. 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-521-6887

CREEKSIDE PARK — Free. Claremont Drive and Crescent, Brentwood. 925-757-2620 or www.ebparks.org.

DEL VALLE REGIONAL PARK — "Lake Del Valle Scenic Boat Tour," Saturdays and Sundays, 1 p.m.

to 2:30 p.m. Take a boat tour to the dam and learn about the lake, the wildlife and activities available in the park. Bring a jacket, sunscreen and binoculars if possible. All children under age 13 and all non-swimming adults are required to wear a provided flotation device. Program canceled with five or fewer participants. \$4 general. \$2.50 children.

7000 Del Valle Road, Livermore. 925-862-2801 or www.ebparks.org.

DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS HISTORIC ESTATE — Nestled in the Oakland hills, the 40-acre Dunsmuir House and Gardens estate includes the 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion.

"The Holiday Season at Dunsmuir 2002," Nov. 29 through Dec. 15. Tour the decorated mansion, carol, shop for holiday crafts and gifts and ride a horse-drawn carriage. Friday through

Sunday.

"The Holiday Soiree," Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. The premier fund-raising event. \$150.

Tours of the Mansion, Wednesday, 11 a.m. to noon. Docents will lead visitors on a guided tour of the 37-room mansion and the estate's historic landscaping. Wear low-heeled shoes; no high heels allowed in the mansion. \$5 general; \$4 seniors, free children age 13 and under.

GROUND — The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public. Free Self-Guided Grounds Tour maps are available at Dinkelspiel House. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free.

Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. 925-275-9490 or 510-615-5555 or www.dunsmuir.org.

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT — Free unless otherwise noted. Call for location of events. 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. 510-635-0135 or www.ebparks.org.

KENNEDY GROVE REGIONAL RECREATION AREA — The 95-acre park contains picnic areas, horseshoe pits and volleyball courts among its grove of aromatic eucalyptus trees. \$4 parking. Through September: daily, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante. 510-223-7840 or www.ebparks.org.

OAKLAND ZOO — The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop as well as the animals in site-specific exhibits, which

allow them to roam freely. Included are "The African Savanna" with its two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits; the Mahali Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant) with African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world; "Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Country," a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for African lions; "Footprints from the Past," an anthropology exhibit showcasing 4 million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna; "Sun Bear Exhibit," a state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears; and Siamang Island, a state-of-the-art, barrier-free area that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat.

"Zoolights Opening Night," Nov. 29 through Jan. 4, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. An annual holiday light display held nightly.

\$7.50 general; \$4.50 seniors and children age 2 to 14; free children under age 2; \$3 parking fee. CLOSED NOV. 28. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. 510-632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org.

USS POTOMAC — The 165-foot presidential yacht USS Potomac, called the "Floating White House" when it was refurbished at the beginning of World War II for use by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, has been restored

See EVENTS, Page C9

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AREA — Within the park's 82 acres are a heated outdoor pool, bathhouse, playing fields, picnic areas and hiking and riding trails. Sea captains once took their bearings from a towering redwood tree on Blossom Rock here. Free. Skyline Boulevard, 1/2 mile north of Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. 510-521-6887 or www.ebparks.org.

ROBERT SIBLEY VOLCANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE — East Bay residents have several volcanoes in their backyard. This park contains Round Top, one of the highest peaks in the Oakland Hills.

Free. 6800 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-521-6887 or www.ebparks.org.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY BOTANICAL GARDEN — The gardens have displays of exotic and native plants.

Free Sick Plant Clinic. The first Saturday of the month a clinician will diagnose plants from 9 a.m. to noon.

TOURS — Botanical Garden Tours, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tour Orientation Center for a free docent tour.

\$3 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 children; free on Thursday. Through Sept. 2: Daily, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; closed the first Tuesday of every month for maintenance. Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. 510-643-2755 or www.milp.berkeley.edu/garden.

WILDCAT CANYON REGIONAL PARK — Free. Contra Costa County north of El Cerrito. 510-636-1684 or www.ebparks.org.

REGIONAL PARK — \$4 for 100 Redwood Road, Oakland. 510-636-1684 or www.ebparks.org.

REGIONAL RECREATION


SUPPORT GROUPS

- **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill** — East Bay Chapter, (NAMI-East Bay), sponsors a free support group for families of children with mental illness. The next meeting is from 7 to 8:45 p.m. Nov. 19, at Albany United Methodist Church, at 980 Stannage St., in Albany (at the corner of Marin Avenue, two blocks east of San Pablo Avenue.) The meetings offer parents and other family members a chance to talk, share information and get emotional support. The public is invited to take advantage of this program. Details: 510-524-1250.
- **Grandparent Support Group** meets from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the second Thursday every month at the Malcolm X Elementary Arts and Academics School, 1731 Prince St., room 105A Berkeley. Grandparents, relatives can express their concerns and needs and receive support, information, and referrals for kinship care. Details: Leni Siegal, 510-644-6517.
- **Become a Certified Domestic Violence Counselor**. Building Futures with Women and Children is offering a state-recognized training for those interested in volunteering with battered women and children. Training is located at 1395 Bancroft Ave in San Leandro. Details: 510-357-0205 ext. 110.
- **The number of recent tragedies** both locally and across the nation can evoke reactions that can affect us emotionally, physically. In our thoughts and behavior Alameda County Crisis Support Services offers help through its 24-hour crisis line, grief counseling, education and community debriefing programs. Details: 849-2212
- **A free Yoga for Cancer** class meets every Wednesday from 11:30 to 12:45 p.m. at the Alta Bates Comprehensive Cancer Center. The classes are open to both current patients and long-term survivors. Details: 891-9560, for directions and more information
- **Restorative Yoga** class meets on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in central Berkeley. Cost: \$10 per class. Easy, luxurious stretches and mindful breathing help to ease tension and discomfort and open the body to relaxation and well-being. Call Janet, 891-9560, for directions and more information.
- **Adult Survivors of Incest**, a local support group in the East Bay is being formed. The group will gather for healing discussions and also various activities, including hiking, dancing, classic film watching, traveling, or any fun activity. Interested participants, call Attica
- Peace at 625-1698. Feel free to leave a message
- **The pain and grief** associated with the death of a loved one can often feel overwhelming — especially during the holidays. Many people suffer isolation. The grief counseling project is here to help. No one is turned away for lack of money. Call 889-1104
- **"The Grief Care Community"** offers 8-week bereavement support groups as well as art therapy grief groups, and individual support. Call 540-0830 for additional information
- **The local self-help group** for Berkeley National Multiple Sclerosis Society meets periodically. Call Toni at 653-4534 for additional information
- **Alta Bates Medical Center** Herick Campus offers a guided relaxation and visualization for people with cancer every Thursday, 5-6 p.m. at its Comprehensive Cancer Center, first floor Conference Room, 2001 Dwight Way. The Center offers this solution with an innovative approach to reducing stress and anxiety and creating positive, life-affirming images. Details: 204-1811
- **Alta Bates Medical Center**, offers a Grief Education Class every third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon at
- ABMC Herick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Class covers common and personal grief reactions. Fee: \$10. No one refused due to inability to pay. Details: 841-2930
- **Alta Bates Medical Center**, 3001 Dwight Way, offers support group classes for stroke survivors and their families and friends on the first Tuesday of the month, from 4-5 p.m. at the Herick Campus of Alta Bates Medical Center. There is no admission charge and advance registration is not necessary. Details: 204-4503
- **The Comprehensive Cancer Center** and Breast Center Salon, Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers a support group for friends and families coping with cancer. The support group is offered on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a free service. Details: 204-1811
- **The Lupus Foundation of Northern California** is still accepting applications for its Youth Pilot Support Program currently underway at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The group meets monthly and is open to teens suffering from lupus and other rheumatic diseases. For more information, call 408-954-8600 or visit www.balf.org.

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Volunteer

FROM PAGE C11

place to work, all proceeds benefit developmentally disabled children and adults. Details: 528-9455.

■ **Women's Cancer Resource Center**, 3023 Shattuck Ave., needs compassionate volunteers to help women with cancer through its information and referral hotline, library, or in-home practical support. Time requirements are two to four hours per week for 6-12 months. Call 548-9286 ext. 309 for an application, interview and more information.

■ **Volunteer at the Crucible**, 1035 Murray St. Sharpen skills, and meet new people in the community. All talents are appreciated. The Crucible is an educational collaboration of arts, industry and community. Call 843-5511 or e-mail crucible@jps.net for more information on how to get involved.

■ **There is an immediate need for Home Delivered Meal volunteers** at the "Open House" Senior Center to deliver noon day meals to the homebound in Kensington, El Cerrito, and Richmond Annex. For more information, call Nichols at 215-4342.

■ **Breast Cancer Action**, an advocacy and activist organization aimed to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic, is seeking volunteers. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including events, activist and task force help, and office work during the week, are available.

able. Call 415-243-9301, for additional information.

■ **Berkeley's Women's Daytime Drop-In Center** needs off-site volunteers to help with mailings, fund-raising events, and holiday programs. Training is provided for all volunteers who can devote three-and-a-half hours a week to working at the Center. Other on-site opportunities include answering phones and performing administrative functions. Those wishing to volunteer should call 466-5663 or 548-6933.

■ **Leah McIntosh Senior Outreach Services Community Volunteers** for the Elderly, 402 Harbour Way, Ste. 105, in Richmond, needs Senior Escort and Escort Volunteers. During the winter months volunteer drivers are especially needed. Volunteer Drivers escort seniors to and from medical appointments. Training is provided. Call 237-7887 for additional information.

■ **La Pena Cultural Center** needs volunteers with technical sound skills. The commitment is two programs per month. Call Kahili 849-2568, ext. 11 for more information.

■ **The Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program** is currently accepting volunteer applications for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers work with the court to advocate the best interest of abused/neglected children in the Alameda County System. To receive an application and information call 268-7297. No previous experience is required. Volunteers for teens, ages 14 and up urgently needed.



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AC TRANSIT PUBLIC MEETING ON THE PROPOSED

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AC Transit invites your comments on service changes proposed for north Alameda County and west Contra Costa County.

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December 10th, 6:30pm, AC Transit General Offices,
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December 12th, 6:30pm, Maple Hall Community
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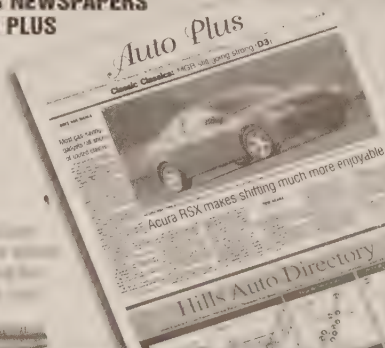
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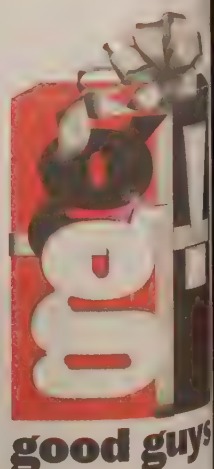
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Section D

Classic Classics: 1965 Bonneville convertible gets second owner [D3]

MARY JACKSON
Women Auto Know

Regular oil
change is most
important car
task

MOTOR MATTERS
If you're pretty good at getting your car's oil changed, you should pay a little attention to maintenance. It should be the most frequent maintenance chore you do because ignoring it could hurt your car's engine.

Getting the oil changed seems straightforward enough: You bring it to your mechanic or one of those oil-change chains and it's done, right?

But what if you are asked what you want, and whether you want a natural or synthetic oil? You are told that you should use an oil additive?

It's time to have an idea of what the mechanic is talking about, let's say with Oil 101: How Oil Works. It does important things for your car. It lubricates, cleans, and protects the metal parts of the engine. But the oil can't go anywhere without the oil pump, which draws the oil and pushes it through the engine.

Protecting important portions of the engine—including the bearings, valves, and other parts—what it's doing as it goes along is protecting the metal parts of your car by preventing them from rubbing against each other and causing friction. (Friction is bad: it causes heat, and it wears away the metal.)

Oil also cools your engine. It carries away heat from the engine and carries it to the radiator, which cools it and sends it back to the engine.

WOMEN, Page D2



CHEVROLET'S 2003 Silverado full-size pickup comes with amenities similar to a luxury sedan, but it still drives like a truck. It also features a new front-end design.

Chevrolet Silverado offers numerous upscale features

MOTOR MATTERS
Spending a week test driving a full-size pickup truck wasn't as strenuous as expected. To my surprise, the 2003 Chevrolet Silverado contains features usually associated with luxury sedans.

This model has a new front-end design, plus protective body-side molding and sharp-looking tail lamps.

My tester had the extended cab with the long box; however, the Silverado offers the choice of regular and extended cabs and short or long boxes.

And next spring, there will be another choice: the Silverado SS, which stands for Super Sport. Any of these pickups can be used for both work and pleasure.

Climbing into the driver's seat of the Silverado LT 1500 4WD was the only aspect that resembled "work." Because the floorboard is 25 inches off the ground, I had to grab the steering wheel to pull up and plop into luxurious surroundings.

The interior featured components not usually found in a truck. For example, while the Bose radio contained all the usual features that

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

most sound systems offer, such as AM/FM stereo and CD changer, a highly desirable XM Satellite radio is included. That allowed me to tune into my type of station or music era and listen to it uninterrupted by commercials.

The rearview mirror contained not only a compass and outside temperature, but also the OnStar

system. Not only did the concierge voice pinpoint my exact location when asked, but she also responded to my daughter's question from the rear seat, "Where can we find a McDonald's?" "A mile and a third down the road on the left."

The backseat accommodates three people and also has adjustable head restraints. It is reasonably easy to enter the rear seats, as the doors open wide with no center B pillar to obstruct the way.

The dual-heating system kept all passengers comfortable. These dual-control zones operate on the

air conditioning system. The exterior mirrors contain heating elements, plus a light to illuminate puddles and a turn-signal arrow.

Another unexpected feature was the airbag system with dual level deployment that is determined by the severity of a crash.

In addition, when the front passenger's seat is unoccupied, the airbag becomes inoperative. That point of information is shown on the

See KEANE, Page D2

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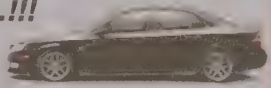
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Organize auto shop in home garage

MOTOR MATTERS

It has often been said that a man's home is his castle. But in reality, for many men, the place where they feel the most secure is in their garage.

In an effort to bring order from chaos, Whirlpool Corporation has introduced a new garage organizer system called Gladiator GarageWorks.

It just may be the answer for auto enthusiasts who like to spend time in the garage working on their vehicles.

Gladiator GarageWorks, a modular solution designed specifically for the garage, includes interchangeable modules (such as the modular Garage Refrigerator, the modular GearDrawers with 24-inch deep drawers, and the modular GearBox for bulky power tools and auto supplies) that fit under a deluxe 8-foot-wide Modular Workbench to save valuable space.

There's even a matching Garage Compactor for trash.

Each of the modules is finished in a rugged tread-plate steel exterior and is on large, heavy-duty casters for easy moving and cleaning.

"A major advantage of our solution," says Todd Starr, head of

GARY MCCOY
Aftermarket Reports

product development for Gladiator GarageWorks, "is that you can take your investment with you when you move."

Patented heavy-duty GearWall panels provide garage owners versatile floor-to-ceiling storage and hold a full range of GearBox cabinets, shelves and hooks — allowing a homeowner to reconfigure the garage as the storage needs change.

Shelves, called GearRacks, are made from heavy-gauge steel. They are on heavy-duty locking casters.

Coming soon to the lineup is the Freezerator, a full-size refrigerator-freezer designed specifically for the temperature extremes of the garage.

Prices vary on the different components, which are sold separately. For instance, the 8-foot maple workbench sells for \$599.99, while the wall GearBox sells for \$199.99.

Gladiator GarageWorks products are available at Lowe's. For additional information, visit www.GladiatorGarageWorks.com.

Vintage window cranks

For owners of vintage Volkswagen Beetles, The Real Source is now selling hard-to-find original 1968-1969 style Chrome & Black Window Crank Handles.

These window cranks are not reproductions, but original equipment direct from Germany.

They also have a good supply of original crank handles which fit all Beetles manufactured from 1970-1979.

The crank handles sell for \$19.99. To order, call 800-588-2844 or visit www.madirect.com.

No Energizer Bunny needed

A flashlight that doesn't need batteries? The Forever Flashlight is available from California Car Cover Company.

Just give the flashlight a shake and it provides up to five minutes of continuous illumination. It is waterproof and visible up to a mile.

A standard size sells for \$39.99, while the smaller version (ideal for glove compartments) sells for \$29.99.

To order, phone California Car Cover Company at 800-423-5525



GLADIATOR GARAGEWORKS is a modular storage organization system designed specifically for garages.

or visit www.calcarcover.com.

Colorful exhaust pipes

Want to make your exhaust pipe glow? StreetGlow's new LED Exhaust Tip has LEDs built right into the actual pipe.

The unit features a universal mounting system that fits exhaust pipes up to a diameter of 2.25 inches. It is available in nine colors and comes complete with installation instructions, mounting hardware and a two-year

StreetGlow's LED Exhaust Tip sells for \$89.99. For more information, visit www.streetglow.com or call 800-935-NEC.

Designers focusing attention on car interiors now

BY JOHN O'DELL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The automotive interior, once relegated to beginners in the styling center, is becoming the designer's new frontier.

"Cars are getting more and more functional, and the exteriors aren't making the personality and lifestyle statements they used to," said Ken Okuyama, chairman of the transportation design department at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif.

"We are getting into a new phase in which the interior is becoming more important and the exterior more neutral."

That might sound blasphemous, coming from a designer who worked on the forthcoming Ferrari FX and the current-generation Chevrolet Corvette.

But those are specialty cars, Okuyama said, and there always will be a place in the world for niche models that make statements.

But in the mainstream auto market, he said, splashy exteriors come and go. The cycle has turned to cocooning, with auto

buyers, especially in the fast-growing U.S. luxury market, more concerned about their immediate environments than the images their vehicles project to those looking at the outside.

Johnson Controls Inc., a major developer of automotive components and equipment, agrees with Okuyama's thinking and recently unveiled a concept for a next-generation luxury vehicle.

It is designed around the idea that people are spending more and more time in their vehicles and are seeking environments that can be adapted to work and leisure.

John Krsteski, who designed the Ariston Concept interior for Johnson Controls, said the project evolved from the company's studies in Europe and North America of what buyers want in a luxury vehicle.

"We found that luxury isn't just a statement that you can make by styling or by adding luxurious appointments like wood trim," he said.

"It is an experience, like going to a fine restaurant and having the

maitre d' present you with the menu. It starts as you get in, and it includes all your surroundings and instruments" just as tableware and upholstery fabrics help establish a luxurious restaurant.

In the Ariston study, that meant that the interior designers dictated certain exterior treatments, including doors that open wide and without obstruction to invite the driver and other occupants.

Owners of luxury vehicles place a premium on people space over luggage space, the Johnson Control team found, so the passenger cabin was lengthened, moving the back seat farther into what typically would be trunk space, to provide a more limousine-like roominess.

"And we found that people, even in the luxury market, also are moving to sport utility vehicles because they like the command seating and the sense of security, so we raised the roof line and the seat height," said Krsteski, showing off the Ariston Concept at a recent one-day design event in Los Angeles.

The Johnson Controls interior

study also demands a higher-than-usual belt line — the point along the side of a vehicle where sheet metal meets window glass — to provide more space in the doors for concealed storage and more depth in the interior to increase occupants' sense of being cushioned.

Krsteski carried the restaurant analogy deeper into the car with an instrument panel that "serves" its devices on demand and stores them when not in use to present the appearance of a clean tabletop.

Thus, the steering wheel is a prototype that folds flat and slips into a concealed position inside the fabric-covered dashboard.

The wheel emerges and locks into operating position with the touch of a button when the driver enters the car, and it stows away at the end of a trip "to announce that you are at the end of the journey," Krsteski said.

The instrument panel itself pops up when the car is running and folds flat when the ignition is off.

The clear-dash that occupants see at the start and finish of a trip

"lets each journey become a fresh start," the designer said.

Luxury also is about not being bothered by the things you don't need, he said. So the Ariston design eliminates the visual clutter of dash-mounted air vents, hiding them under the dash.

The instrument panel uses digital readouts and lets the driver call up information as needed.

"You control this environment," Krsteski said.

Other touches include briefcase storage in the rear door panels and unobtrusive, touch-sensitive "smart" switches — for controlling windows, air conditioning, entertainment and other systems — that are woven into the armrest upholstery fabric.

Krsteski said that by designing the interior as a modular element that could be built separately by an outside vendor and installed in one piece on an automaker's assembly line, a variety of colors, fabrics, even seating materials and configurations, would be possible.

"Choice is what luxury is all about," he said.

Vote online for all-time favorite Corvette model

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By voting, consumers have a chance to win a 2003 Silver Anniversary Corvette and a trip to join the Corvette 50th Anniversary Celebration in June 2003. You can vote online at www.corvettecard.com.

Consumers will be able to vote from all 50 model years and the popular Corvette model will be front of a special commemorative (Household Bank-issued) MasterCard to be unveiled at the 50th anniversary celebration.

Corvette has remained the two-seat sports car heritage since the first vehicle came off the assembly line on June 30, 1953. More than 1 million units have been delivered over the years.

Women

FROM PAGE D1

gine, since it picks up excess heat as it goes along.

The oil picks up stray gunk which is then removed from the oil when it goes through the oil filter. As you can see, oil has a lot to work to do.

In order for oil to do its work, you need to change it every few months or few thousand miles. (Every 5,000 miles is fine, unless you qualify for severe service, too heavy loads, or have lots of short trips and cold starts. Be sure to change the oil filter each time you change the oil.)

You also need to choose the right kind of oil for your car.

Choosing the correct oil is as simple as opening your owner's manual

and checking what the manufacturer recommends.

Here's a compelling reason to dig through your glove box to find that poor, ignored manual: New car warranties may be considered null and void if you use any oil other than what the manufacturer recommends.

As for the brand of oil, if you go with a major brand name you'll be fine. Look for a symbol resembling a starburst on the label. That indicates it meets the requirements of API, the American Petroleum Institute.

Under no circumstances should you go beyond the change interval recommended by your manufacturer. You could void your warranty.

Years ago, choosing oil wasn't so clear-cut. It used to be that you'd use two different oil weights, depending on the time of the year — a thicker weight in the summer, thinner in the

winter.

But now there are multi-grade oils that work year round.

And if you're asked if you want synthetic oil — which costs several times as much as regular, petroleum-based oil — you can say this with confidence: No, thanks.

Synthetic oils contain perfectly formed oil molecules, instead of nature's irregularly formed oil molecules, and because of the shape of the molecules, synthetic oils reach moving parts more quickly and also resist breaking down under hot and cold conditions.

Unless you live in Antarctica or in the Sahara, synthetic oil isn't a necessity.

Oil additives may also be offered to you but, here again, you can say no. What these additives are supposed to do is make the engine last longer.

But recent studies have shown that there are few real benefits and that some additives can actually cause engine problems.

One of the nicest things you can do is to allow your car to warm up for 30 seconds before you drive it.

In those 30 seconds, the oil pump can get to work, pressurizing the oil so it cushions important engine parts before you start driving and the parts start moving.

Sure, 30 seconds can seem like a long time to wait when you're running late for an important appointment, but here's a message from your car: You give me 30 seconds, and I'll give you a healthier, longer-living engine.

Mary Jackson is the author of *Car Smarts, a Layperson's Guide to Cars*. Her Web site is www.womenatthewheel.com.

Keane

FROM PAGE D1

on the rearview mirror.

My tester had numerous amenities that compared to a luxury sedan: deep tinted glass, remote keyless entry, leather-wrapped steering wheel, power doors and windows.

All are included in the \$34,278 base price. But this truck was loaded with \$6,295 in options.

Quadrasteer, the most expensive option at \$495, is a four-wheel steering system that makes the Silverado more maneuverable at low speeds and more stable at high speeds.

Because the rear wheels turn, this big truck is very easy to steer, especially when negotiating a small parking space in

a crowded shopping center or when towing.

This feature reduces the normal turning diameter of about 50 feet down to 37 feet — similar to a small car.

My tester also had the options of a trailer hitch platform, connection wires, transmission cooler and air cleaner.

On the downside, although the ride was comfortable, it still had truck-like harshness.

Even though there are many choices of engines, my tester had a 5.3-liter V8 engine that produced 285 horsepower.

This was linked to a four-speed automatic transmission with 4WD. Larger engines are available.

What I found in this Silverado is a maneuverable, go-anywhere pickup that can transport five passengers in luxurious comfort.

CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT 1500

Vehicle Type	Five-passenger, four-door full-size 4WD
Suggested Retail	\$34,278
Price as Tested	\$40,573
Engine Type	5.3-liter Vortec V8 5300 w/SFI
Horsepower	285 at 5,200 rpm
Torque	325 at 4,000 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Wheelbase	185 inches
Overall Length	273 inches
Curb Weight	6,056 pounds
Fuel Capacity	34 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 14/18
Strong Feature	Thoughtful comforts
Weak Feature	Truck-like ride

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1965 Pontiac Bonneville convertible: Long, strong

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

MOTOR MATTERS
The 1965 Pontiac Bonneville convertible was built in 1965. Of the 1965 Pontiacs manufactured that year, 21,050 were Bonneville convertibles.
Toward the end of the 1965 year, a Fresno couple purchased a new Bonneville convertible with a white top.
The burgundy body sparkled, and the "Magic-Mirror" finned hood was the base price of the convertible was \$3,594, the price was \$5,069.03 because of optional extras.
The V8 engines were rated at 135 horsepower to 376 horsepower. This particular Pontiac had a 300-cubic-inch V8 that developed 135 horsepower.
The four-barrel carburetor drank 26.5-gallon fuel tank.
The 1965 was an articulated car enabling a greater sweep than any other system, GM had at the time.
The Pontiac was always driven and carefully driven until

the late 1970s when domestic automakers quit building convertibles. The owner hoped the obsolescence would create great value.

Alas, the best laid plans can be thwarted by outside forces. Automakers a few years later resumed production of convertibles. Modern convertibles, however, seem to be three-quarter size models of the full-size land yachts of yore.

So, by the summer of 2001, the original owner of the Bonneville decided to sell the 4,136-pound car.

That's about the time Art Gould, co-host of "The Car Show" on 90.7 FM radio in Los Angeles, was thinking about acquiring an antique car. The two parties corresponded, and about a year ago Gould went to see the car.

As he sat in the parchment and red interior, he was impressed by the chrome-laden W-I-D-E dashboard with all the instruments slanted toward the driver.

The Turbo-Hydramatic transmission can be manually shifted into either Super (second gear) or



THIS 1965 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE convertible had deluxe features and an articulated wiper arm that was new that year. This latter feature kept the wiper blade straight, thus eliminating any tendency to lift off the glass at speeds up to 85 mph, a GM exclusive that year.

Lo (first gear) from Drive (third gear) at any speed. Unfortunately, on a test-drive around the block the transmission proved to be balky.

Nevertheless, Gould crossed his fingers and bought the car. "I had hoped for a sporty convertible," Gould says, "but what I got was a large, but very nice, cruiser."

The Bonneville is an eyelash shy of 18.5-foot long.

His first order of business was to replace all the hoses, belts, gaskets and rubber parts that had deteriorated while the car was in storage.

Next, Gould was relieved to learn that a transmission flush and fresh fluid cured the shifting malady.

Because the one thing more important than running is stopping, Gould checked the drum brakes,

both front and rear. And after installation of a new exhaust system he is now confident of the car's reliability.

"On the open highway this boat floats along effortlessly with very little wake," Gould says.

The singular downside with the 124-inch wheelbase convertible comes in the city

"With more parking places designated for compact cars, a trip to the mall takes special planning and long walks to find the extra long parking spaces."

If you have a vehicle of interest to "Classic Classics" readers, write to Motor Matters, 4635 Bailey Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808-4109 detailing its merits.

Technology lets drivers see better in the dark

SPARE PARTS
Motor Matters

Night Vision, a thermal-imaging technology, allows warm-bodied humans and animals to be seen in a Heads-Up Display on the driver.

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In situations such as a person crossing the side of the road or crossing the roadway, may not be visible with the naked eye until it's too late.

To continue: Don't worry about headlights dissipating any time soon. Incentives are far more likely to go away.

According to the Detroit Free Press, October was the worst sales month of the year. In Japan, the Big Three automakers are dramatically boosting — profits nearly doubling — profits this month on the strength of sales in America.

guzzlers: Average fuel economy

for those shiny new 2003 model cars headed for showrooms is down for the third consecutive year and now stands about 6 percent below the high point set 15 years ago.

The percentage of the new vehicles getting more than 30 mpg dropped to 4 percent from 6 percent a year ago.

In 1987 and 1988, gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles averaged 22.1 mpg compared to 20.8 for 2003.

Ford GT legend: Ford has informed dealers that only three GT vehicles will be built in 2003 to help promote the reintroduction of the supercar and to celebrate the motor company's upcoming 100th anniversary.

These three cars are symbolic of Ford's 1-2-3 victory in the 1966 24-hours of Le Mans. Regular, limited-

production of about 1,000 GTs annually begins in 2004.

Ford's great American supercar of the mid-1960s, the GT40, was a low-slung, muscular machine that dominated racing from 1966 to 1969.

Pontiac Grand Prix: Pontiac's ninth generation mid-size performance sedan, the 2004 Grand Prix, will demonstrate the auto brand's 21st century contemporary design direction.

The new Grand Prix will have clean, smooth lines with protective moldings nicely integrated into the design. Inside, the fabrics and leather will be richer for a more refined look.

The broader picture: GM's October sales figures were down 32 percent from October, 2001 when the automaker launched its "Keep America Rolling" campaign after 9/11.

However, with two months remaining on the calendar year, GM's SUV sales to date had exceeded last year's results and are



NIGHT VISION technology is making its way into dashboard displays to help drivers avoid collisions with people and animals.

up 23 percent.



2003 GT vehicles will be built in 2003, symbolically repeating Ford's 1-2-3 victory in the 1966 Le Mans.

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THE GM HUMMER H2 is a fine-riding, heavy-duty SUV that doubles as a highly capable tow vehicle.



MOTOR MATTERS

New GM Hummer is a terrific tow vehicle

MOTOR MATTERS

The new General Motors H2 Hummer is making a huge splash as the most talked-about, most eye-catching new sport utility vehicle for 2003.

However, there's more to the H2 than its macho image may imply.

RV owners will discover that it's a terrific tow vehicle, as well as a seemingly go-anywhere SUV with a backbone of steel.

Although the original civilian-adapted military Hummer H1 is a highly capable vehicle in its own right, it lacks certain refinements that make it fully acceptable to many drivers. It also costs close to \$100,000.

The new H2, on the other hand, has been softened and improved with user-friendly features that include a base price in the \$48,000 range, which is in the ballpark for a full-size, fully outfitted SUV.

It starts with a specially built chassis that's fitted with an independent front suspension with torsion bars and a solid-axle rear suspension with a four-link system and coil springs.

Almost all components are derived from other General Motors truck or SUV applications.

Our test H2 came with the optional self-adjusting airbag rear suspension and the standard-issue four-wheel disc brakes with ABS.

JEFF JOHNSTON
Rolling Homes

GM's Vortec 6.0-liter V8, rated at 315 horsepower and 360 pound-feet of torque, is the only engine available, as is the Hydra-Matic 4L65-E four-speed automatic transmission with overdrive.

The transfer case includes full-time 4WD, 4WD lock and low-range 4WD lock gear selections. Four-wheel automatic traction control and a rear-axle locking differential are also standard features.

Another feature derived from the original Hummer is the forward-tilting hood. It's an easy operation to open up the engine compartment for service access.

A four-door hardtop body style is the only version available so far, and it serves well in its tow vehicle capacity.

Passenger accommodations include dual bucket seats up front, a three-adult middle bench seat and a single third-row bucket seat.

The third-row seat came about due to the presence of a full-size spare tire that's also stored in back.

We found the driver and passenger seating to be most accommodating, and our 10-year-old passenger gave the back seat high marks as well.

A quiet journey, on pavement or

dirt, and a well-designed passenger compartment with body-matching ergonomics contribute to a delightful ride.

The H2 is rated to tow as much as 6,700 pounds, which covers a lot of the lighter-weight family-style trailers on the market.

We towed a Jayco Kiwi model that weighed approximately 4,500 pounds, which left plenty of extra capacity for payload and passengers.

In short, the H2 was the most stable tow rig we've driven in a long time. The trailer displayed virtually no sway tendencies, and gusty wind and passing truck traffic had little effect on our forward path.

Several H2 characteristics help with this stable towing performance, mainly the short rear-end overhang, a fairly long wheelbase and its sturdy chassis and suspension.

The H2's 122.8-inch wheelbase is about 6 inches longer than that of a Chevy Tahoe, yet the H2's body is about 9 inches shorter overall.

On the freeway, there was no need for white-knuckle driving as the lashed trucked straight and true.

It's a lot more fun when you can tow a trailer and not be worn out from driving stress when you arrive.

In the hills, the H2 geared down and kept moving at whatever speed we chose, based on the surrounding traffic, of course.

It seemed the rig's steering sta-

bility was first rate, and braking likewise was dead-ahead stable and dependable.

We traveled quite a distance on forest service dirt roads to and from the campsite, and the H2 delivers a firm but very comfortable ride in the rough stuff.

It lacks the stiff ride for which some 4WD vehicles are known, a feature that makes it really fun to drive off the pavement.

If there's a downside, it's fuel economy—or the lack of. Solo, we averaged just over 11 mpg, although a cautious driver could likely improve on that.

Towing the trailer, our economy dropped to about 8 mpg, which is average for a V8 powered tow rig hauling a full-profile travel trailer.

Given the H2's other attributes, we couldn't kick much about its mileage since it's on par with other tow vehicles in its class.

All things considered, we were highly impressed with the H2 as a tow rig.

In a market full of SUV variety, with rigs large and small and aimed at virtually every part of society, the H2 presents a strong, appealing image that's also a highly capable performer.

Bad brake job probably cause of groaning noise

KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

Q I just purchased a late-model (used) Chrysler Town & Country minivan and am very happy with it except for one small detail.

When braking, just before coming to a complete stop, I notice a bit of a groaning noise.

Looking through the spoked wheels I can see the front brake rotors have very noticeable spiral like grooves across their surface.

Is this normal? Could it be the cause of the noise I'm hearing?

Should the rotors be turned or replaced?

Luke Edag, Rio Vista, Calif.

A Brake rotor surface finish is quite important, especially when semimetallic disc pads are used.

Spiral (also known as directional) grooves can cause vibration, groaning and snapping noises, in addition to improper mating with the pad friction material.

It sounds like the rotors were hastily turned (machined) during a previous brake service. Machining brake drums and rotors is often necessary to restore a true and smooth surface.

During the final (finish) cut, the lathe's speed, depth-of-cut and cross-feed should be carefully adjusted in order to obtain the desired rotor surface finish.

This should be followed up with a circular-action refinishing treatment, which produces a very fine crosshatch texture.

Are your rotors serviceable? It's impossible to say without measuring them.

Most brake rotors must be replaced if worn or machined more than .060 of an inch (a little more than the thickness of a penny) beyond the original thickness.

Thin rotors are prone to warping, cracking and brake fade (loss of function).

When machining a rotor, careful attention must be paid to the minimum refinishing thickness and discard thickness specifications.

BRAD BERGH

The minimum thickness is typically .015 to .020 greater than the original, allowing for future wear.

Q I've been a chirping serpent for some time now, during the morning, during the day.

It lasts around 10 minutes, then disappears for the day.

The belt at the condenser is fine. What else could it be?

How can I fix it? **Jim Thomas, Bay Area**

A Jim, it sounds like you have misaligned the damper (from a densation) V-belt. The face of the damper is not flat, so it's not seating properly.

Has the damper power steering been placed? The damper pulley is not mounted.

According to the leading manufacturer, the damper wet belt should be aligned large diameter side, allowing a short belt.

Shim the damper repositioning. A belt connection may be necessary to store proper alignment.

Short-term solution: provided by the belt.

I'm not a fan of belt as they attract dirt and the belt material.

Brad Bergh, Bay Area

motive technician at the College of the Siskiyous.

E-mail: bergh@juno.com or care of Drive, Merced, 95190. He cannot be reached by phone.

Continuously Variable Transmissions have improved and are here to stay

MOTOR MATTERS

Continuously Variable Transmissions have been around for decades. CVTs are the popular drivetrain choice for lawn tractors, scooters, snowmobiles, and other off-road vehicles.

These somewhat low-horsepower applications use a tapered rubber belt and a set of variable pitch pulleys that adjust mechanically to suit engine speed and load. However, automotive applications of CVTs are a lot more demanding.

Larger engines with more horsepower and torque rule out the use of rubber belts, and consumer demands for powertrain performance require more sophisticated control techniques.

Subaru tried using a CVT in the Justy years ago, and it was a flop — the world wasn't ready for a mechanically operated CVT.

Later, Honda tried again with its own version of a CVT in the Civic HX. It also failed in the marketplace because low engine power made it seem as though the engine was constantly racing to provide enough power just to keep up.

Honda's recent efforts with CVTs in the Insight and Civic Hybrid are a lot more driver-friendly, thanks to much-refined electronic control.

In what seems to be a giant leap forward, Nissan's all-new 2003 Murano comes only with a Continuously Variable Transmission.

Nissan's Xtronic CVT is mated to a 245-horsepower 3.5-liter V6 producing 246 pound-feet torque — a new record for CVT torque capacity.

While automatic or manual transmissions use multiple gear sets with an integral clutch and bands to achieve separate gear ratios, the Xtronic CVT replaces those discrete gear ratios with an infinitely adjustable ratio design.

DAVE VAN SICKLE
Down the Road

Instead of using fixed gears, Xtronic CVT transmits power through two variable diameter pulleys and a high-strength steel belt.

The Xtronic CVT "changes" ratios smoothly and seamlessly with no perceptible pauses, jerks or lurches — virtually eliminating traditional shift shock.

During acceleration, the pulleys move in opposite directions and the steel belt rides on the smaller diameter, closer to the axis; when the pulleys are close, the steel belt rides on a larger diameter, near the outer rim.

The pulleys are controlled to expand and contract in opposite directions so the ratio of the drive diameters between the two pulleys can be varied over a wide range, resulting in an infinitely variable drive ratio.

The Xtronic CVT offers a spread of "gear" ratios between its lowest and highest range (2.371:1 to 0.439:1).

At the heart of the Xtronic CVT is a high-strength steel belt, which is as strong as steel but as flexible as a belt.

The strength enables it to handle high torque input, suiting it well to the output of Murano's V6 engine.

CVTs bring a number of benefits. The most obvious is the quick response and smooth ratio changes, versus the "clunk" of a shifting transmission that is familiar to all drivers.

In contrast, CVTs are perfectly smooth — they change ratios discreetly and minutely so that the driver feels only steady acceleration.

A major benefit is the convenience of an automatic with the performance similar to a manual. Due to the pulley and chain design, CVTs can maintain the ideal ratio to keep the engine in its optimal power range.

his power is especially felt on mountainous driving ranges, as it can smoothly tailor the gearing to suit the hills, rather than constantly downshifting, searching for the right gear.

Nissan claims that the Xtronic CVT also allows for improved fuel economy.

By varying the gear ratio continuously, the electronically controlled CVT suffers no power loss during shifting, allowing the engine to operate under conditions of optimum efficiency.

A recent test-drive of the new Murano was an opportunity to see if Nissan's new CVT is everything Nissan claims it is.

In the past, CVTs have been disappointing because they try to compensate for a lack of engine power, so they rev high all the time.

With plenty of torque and power, the Murano's V6 lets the CVT do what it does best.

The transmission always finds the right ratio, whether for off-the-line performance or for instant acceleration to merge or pass.

And for down-hill engine braking, there are two shift lever positions to move the transmission to fixed lower ranges.

CVTs are a perfect example of how modern technology has improved the driving experience for all of us. Expect to see more automakers adopt this emerging development.

More than name change for Subaru Baja

NEWSDAY

More than a name differentiates the old Brat from the new Baja. On sale since last month, the Baja is a Legacy Outback wagon with a pickup bed instead of an enclosed cargo area.

It has the same hood, headlights, doors, front fenders, wheelbase, 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and powertrain as the Outback.

A six-cylinder engine might be available later.

The Baja's rear seats fold flat and there is a cargo pass-through door, which is about 30 inches wide and 12 inches high. Folding it flat creates a cargo floor from the back of the front seats to the tailgate.

The rear window and frame are fixed. The Baja also has stainless steel sport bars connecting the pickup bed and the roof.

Introduced earlier was the 2003 Forester, which includes a "Hill Holder" clutch for its manual transmission, which automatically keeps the car from rolling back when a driver facing uphill is forced to stop and then start again.

The Forester's 165-hp., 2.5-liter boxer engine is carried over. The car's exterior dimensions are virtually the same as its predecessors.

There are dual-stage deployment front- and side-impact air bags.

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General Motors looks at small car for Buick

BY JIM MATEJA

CHICAGO — Reports are circulating that Buick may get a new car built off the same front-wheel-drive Epsilon platform as the 2003 Saab from the Swedish firm. Buick's smallest offering now is the '04 Chevrolet Malibu, which will be replaced for '04, at which time it is expected that the companion Cen-

tury would become an option package on it. The new Epsilon-based Buick would be smaller than the mid-size Regal and give the carmaker a lower-priced entry-level vehicle to attract younger buyers, the auto industry's quest of late. We spotted Roger Adams, Buick general manager, taking a break from a dealer meeting in Detroit recently and asked him about the reports of a new small Buick. "That's the rumor," Adams said.

An interesting reply, because he didn't say "That's a rumor." But when it came to elaborating about a new small Buick, Adams reply was a quick: "No comment." While Adams chose not to talk about a small car, he did offer that "we're going to move more upscale with more emphasis on interiors and interior roominess because Cadillac is moving more upscale and that creates a wider gap between Buick and Cadillac."

Cadillac, of course, is the luxury car GM hopes consumers move up into when they leave their near-luxury Buick. If Buick does get a small car, it may not be until the '06 or '07 model year because there are rumors that the replacement for the Saturn I-Series also will be off the Epsilon platform, and that car won't come out until '06.

Return of MR2? Looking ahead, Esmond quickly offers that the redesigned Toyota sport-utility vehicle that comes out for the '04 model year will be "a bit bigger and closer in size to the Toyota Highlander," said Don Esmond, senior vice president and general manager of Toyota. The RX is now built on a 103-inch wheelbase and is 180.3 inches long, the old Camry platform. Highlander is built on a 106.9-inch wheelbase and is 184.4 inches long, built off the new Camry platform.

Sienna minivan comes out next spring. But when asked about the fate of the Toyota MR2 sports car, he chooses his words more carefully. "MR2? No comment. But we only sell 5,000 a year," he said. There's also been some speculation about the Land Cruiser, Toyota's biggest SUV. At one time Land Cruiser posted annual sales of 14,000 units, but this year will reach only 6,000. "It'll still be there," Esmond insisted. "It's a cult vehicle that serves a purpose."

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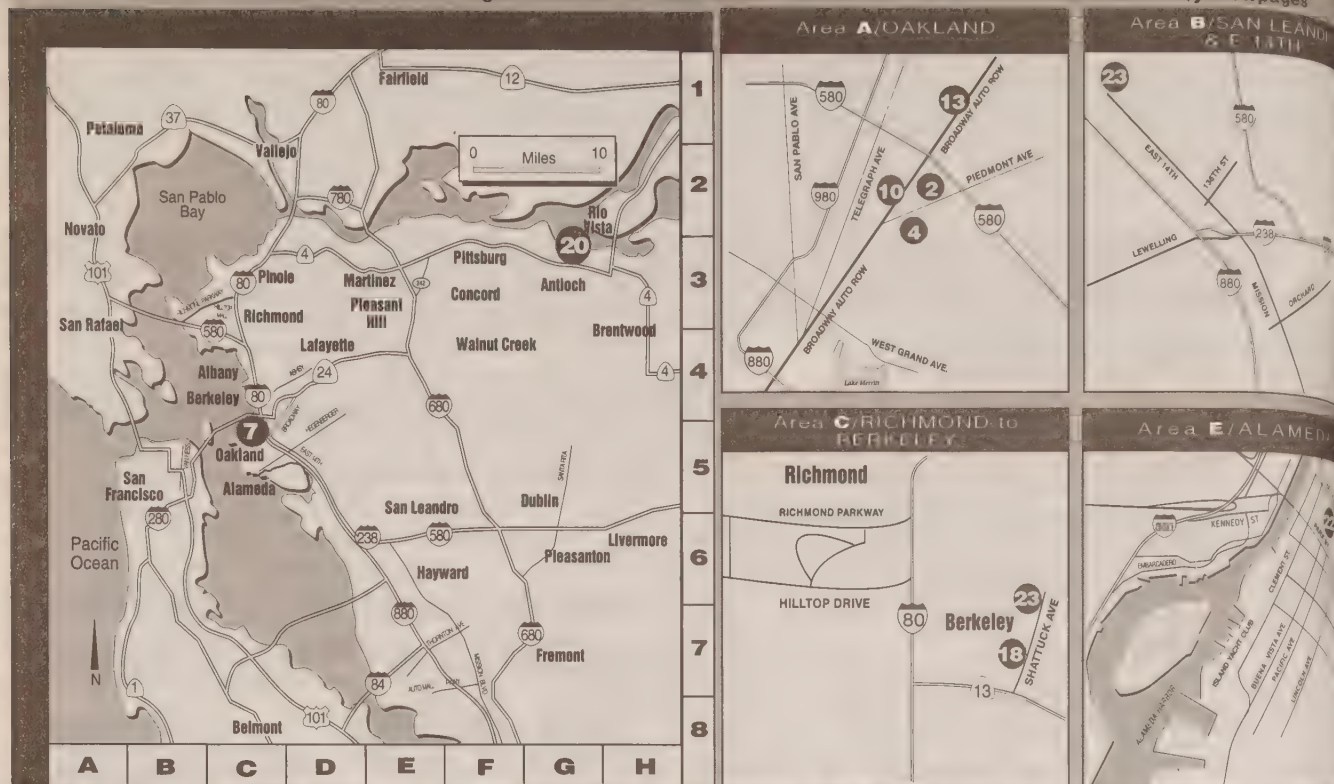
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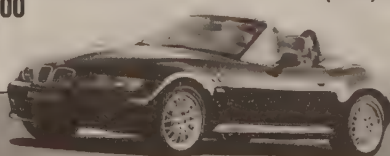
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Successful cand. must
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consideration, fax resumes
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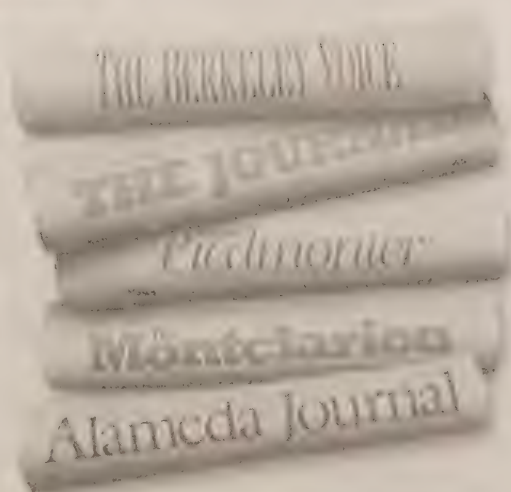
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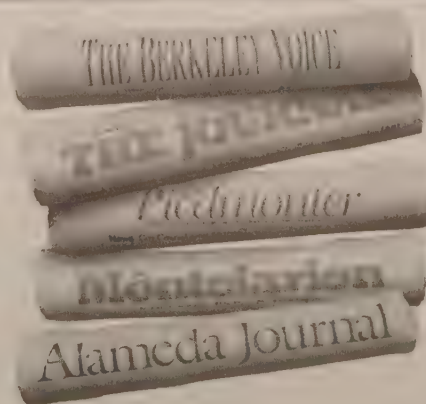
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Cogeneration Plant is seek-
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waived applicants should
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Company needs property
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\$66,326-80,149/yr
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Details are provided on the
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Mail application to
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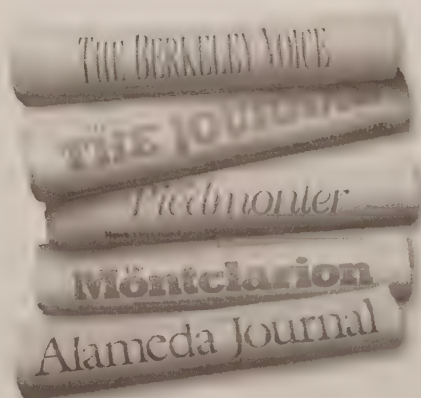
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earn reimbursement for
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reception desk. Must be
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Must speak Spanish.
Receptionist at San Ramon
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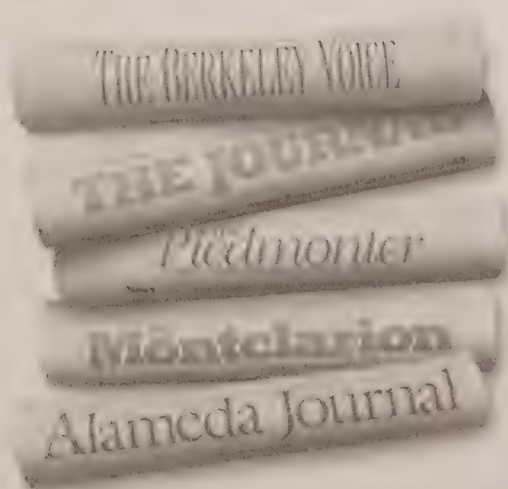
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Plan your baking ahead, by the book

There's no shortage of books with bakers eager to light up the kitchen with the aromas of seasonal

platters and cookie platters, and even gift boxes to make connections for the holidays. Little time spent browsing generates plenty of ideas. Start titles to keep in mind: "Sweet Quartet: Sugar, Almonds, Eggs, and Butter" is the title of Fran Gage's new book (North Point Press,

This is a colorful scene setter, with pages of good reading and information.

Gage is a food writer who lives in San Francisco, and is a member of the renowned Baker's Dozen group. She delves into culinary history, tells stories of her travel adventures and offers other wonderfully interesting background on each of her four subject headings, along with recipes using them.

"Baking in America" (Houghton Mifflin, \$35) is by Greg Patent, a food magazine and cookbook writer who lives in Mis-

soula, Mont.

His book, subtitled "Traditional and Contemporary Favorites from the Past 200 Years," features some 250 recipes. He's re-created, updated and adapted recipes where necessary for what adds up to a deliciously detailed survey of America's history as reflected by its kitchens.

"The Good Cookie" (Wiley, \$34.95), written by Tish Boyle, focuses on this favorite confection that can take uncountable, delectable forms.

Boyle, food editor and test-kitchen director of *Chocolatier*, and *Pastry Art & Design* magazines, has assembled a collection of recipes for about 250 of the best.

"The Whimsical Bakehouse" (Potter) is a call to have fun with color and design when you're decorating your cakes, made loud and clear by mother and daughter writers Kaye Hansen and Liv Hansen.

The pages sing with illustrations showing how buttercream and icing can magically turn into bright butterflies and snowmen, skyscrapers or teacups, whatever your cake needs.

The instruction details make it all sound as easy and playful as the visible results.

"The Best of Betterbaking.com" (Ten Speed Press, \$24.95 paperback) by Marcy Goldman and Yvan Huneault is a collection of 175 recipes from a baking Web site, by the site's founder and its webmaster.

There's a friendly, helpful tone to the texts, and the recipes are accompanied with plenty of advice, general hints and tips.

"The Baker's Manual, Fifth Edition" and "Understanding Baking, Third Edition" are two classics by Joseph Amendola and Nicole Rees (Wiley, \$29.95 each, paperback).

They offer "150 master formulas for baking," and "the art and



AP PHOTO/BEN FINK

WINTER WONDERLAND is one of the decorative ideas suggested in "The Whimsical Bakehouse" (Potter) by Kaye Hansen and Liv Hansen. Buttercream icing is the ground on which colored white and dark chocolate snowman and trees are placed.

science of baking," respectively, continuing the originals' mission of demystifying such technical areas as the physics of heat or natural chemistry between yeast and flour.

Recipes are included along with line drawings, charts and tables.

"Mom's Best Desserts" (Storey Books, \$10.95 paperback) by Andrea Chesman and Fran Raboff is a homey selection by two reliable cookbook authors of 100 traditional family favorites.

The recipes are clearly presented and interspersed with historical details.

"125 Best Cheesecake Recipes" (Robert Rose, \$18.95 paperback) is a roundup by food writer-cooking teacher George Geary of practically every kind of cheesecake you may have imagined and then some.

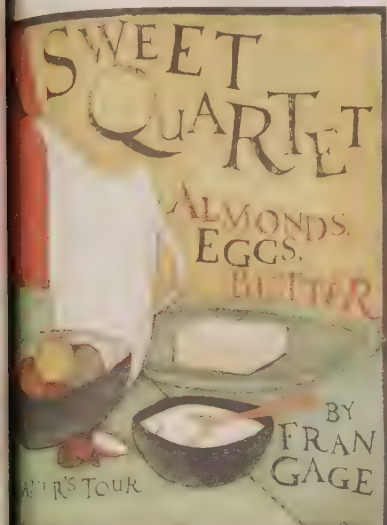
Savory versions are included, and recipes for sauces to serve with your cheesecake.

Finally, two sturdy standbys. — "Betty Crocker's Cooky

Book" (Wiley, \$24.95) is a real period piece, a facsimile of the 1961 edition, reproduced with all its color, about 450 recipes, photos and drawings.

"Betty Crocker's Ultimate Cake Mix Book" (Wiley, \$24.95) is a completely up-to-date manual for those who admit they do grab a box and go the convenience food way — but still want to try add a twist here and there.

Both are handily designed books, with concealed wire ring binding.



AP PHOTO/BEN FINK

SWEET QUARTET: Sugar, Almonds, Eggs, and Butter" is the title of Fran Gage's new cookbook. Gage, a food writer in San Francisco, is a member of the renowned Baker's

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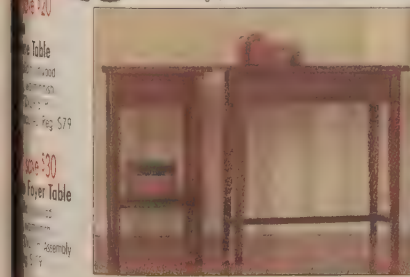
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'Tis the season to be berry happy

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
ALBANY TIMES UNION

ALBANY, N.Y. — No fruit says late fall like cranberries.

If apples announce the beginning of autumn, cranberries are its bookend: the plump, ruby red signal that this season of glorious colors is quickly coming to a close.

Fresh produce sections in many supermarkets have had a special table devoted to fresh cranberries for the better part of a month. Most of the cranberries are bagged from Ocean Spray, the cranberry grower cooperative that was started in 1930.

Like many fruits, fresh cranberries are far better than the dried version available the rest of the year. Unlike other berries, they are not sold frozen. So, now's the time to buy them, because soon they won't be around.

The good news is that fresh cranberries are perhaps the world's easiest fruit to freeze. If you like to make cranberry breads or relishes throughout the winter, buy as many of the 12-ounce bags as you can fit in your freezer.

To freeze cranberries, just place the bag in the freezer. Don't pre-wash them, according to the experts at the Cranberry Institute, an industry trade group.

When you are ready to cook or bake with the frozen cranberries, do not thaw them. Simply rinse the frozen fruit in cold water and use as directed for fresh cranberries. (A 12-ounce bag of cranberries contains about 3 cups of berries.) Frozen cranberries should last up to one year.

Fresh cranberries will keep in the refrigerator for two to four weeks, so if you're not planning to use them between now and Thanksgiving it's time to place that bag (or bags) in the freezer.

Meanwhile, cranberries are being touted for their nutritional value. The old wives' tale that cranberries are terrific for preventing urinary tract infections has now been supported by more than half-dozen scientific studies.

Other research shows that cranberries pack a powerful antioxidant punch, meaning they may offer some protection against cancer, heart disease and strokes.

Here are some easy recipes using fresh (or frozen) cranberries:

CRANBERRY NUT BARS

2 eggs
1 cup sugar
1 cup flour
1/3 cup butter, melted
1 1/4 cups fresh or frozen cranberries

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8-inch-square pan.

Beat eggs in a medium bowl until thick. Gradually add sugar, beating until thoroughly blended. Stir in flour and melted butter; blend well. Add cranberries and walnuts, mixing gently just until combined. Spread evenly into pan.

Bake 45 minutes or until golden brown. Cool and cut into squares. Makes 6 servings.

Recipe from Ocean Spray.

PUMPKIN-CRANBERRY BREAD

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
3 cups granulated sugar
1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin
4 large eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup apple juice
1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries

ries

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour 6 (5- by 3-inch) loaf pans.

In a large bowl, combine flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda and salt. In a mixing bowl, combine sugar, pumpkin, eggs, oil and apple juice; beat until just blended. Add pumpkin mixture to flour mixture; stir just until moistened. Fold in cranberries. Spoon batter into prepared pans.

Bake 50 to 55 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire racks for 10 minutes; remove from pans to cool completely.

Makes 6 mini loaves.
Recipe from Nestle USA.

FRESH CRANBERRY CUSTARD PIE

1 1/2 cups fresh cranberries, rinsed and picked over
1 tablespoon orange zest
1 1/4 cups plus 2 tablespoons sugar, divided

1 cup water
Pinch of salt
Pinch of ground cinnamon
1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon cornstarch, divided

1/4 cup fresh orange juice
3 cups milk, divided
4 eggs, separated
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 tablespoon butter
8 individual pastry shells, baked until golden

In a nonreactive, nonstick saucepan, over medium heat, combine the cranberries, zest, 1/2 cup sugar, water, salt and cinnamon. Bring the mixture to a boil and cook for 10 minutes.

Dissolve 1 tablespoon cornstarch in the orange juice. Add the mixture to the cranberries and stir

until golden

See CRANBERRIES, Page 3

Classic cornbread

CREATIVE METRO SERVICES

Serve this classic corn bread alongside your simmering pot of minestrone or spicy chili dish. Recipe courtesy of "Ultimate Bread" (DK Publishing), by Eric Treuille and Ursula Ferrigno.

CLASSIC CORN BREAD

2 tablespoons butter, melted, plus extra to grease pan
1 cup fine cornmeal
1 cup unbleached flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 tablespoon sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 eggs, beaten
2/3 cup buttermilk
2/3 cup milk

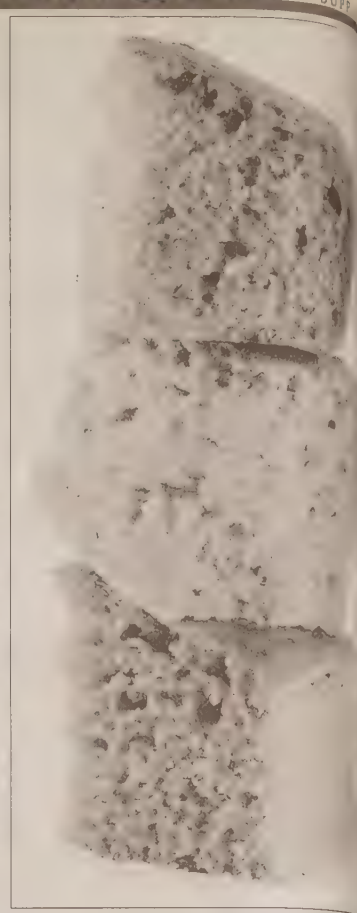
Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. 1. Grease a 9-inch square, 2-inch deep baking pan with melted butter. Place in the oven until very hot.

2. Stir the cornmeal, flour, baking powder, baking soda, sugar and salt together in a large bowl until thoroughly combined. Make a well in the center. Whisk the eggs, buttermilk and milk together in a separate bowl and stir in the melted butter.

3. Pour the mixture into the well, then use a spatula to gently fold all the ingredients together to form a wet batter. (Over-mixing can result in a heavy bread.)

4. Spoon the batter into the hot buttered pan — it should sizzle. Bake in the preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes, until golden and well-risen. It is ready when the edges shrink from the sides of the pan and a metal skewer inserted into the center comes out clean.

5. Turn out of the pan and cool slightly on a wire rack. Cut into squares and serve warm. Makes 1 loaf.



ONE BREAD that always makes an appearance during festivities is corn bread — the original all-American bread.

Dinner tonight — leftovers: Hot Brown sandwiches

BY DONNA PIERCE
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

At my house, this open-faced sandwich is a once-a-year treat the weekend after Thanksgiving when the refrigerator is stocked with all the leftovers from the feast. The sandwich was created in the 1920s at the historic Brown Hotel in Louisville and includes a rich white sauce, tomatoes and bacon slices layered over sliced turkey.

Menu: Hot Brown sandwiches, cranberry sauce, grapes and sliced pears, sparkling grape juice or Champagne

Tips: Bacon slices cooked in the

oven don't need to be constantly watched: Heat oven to 400 degrees. Spread bacon strips on a baking sheet. Bake until bacon is crisp, about 10 minutes.

HOT BROWN SANDWICHES

1 stick (1/2 cup) butter
4 tablespoons flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground pepper
1-1/2 cups whipping cream
1 cup milk
2 egg yolks, slightly beaten
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
8 slices bread, toasted
16 slices turkey breast, about 1-

1/2 pounds
2 tomatoes, sliced into 8 slices
1/4 cup shredded Gruyere cheese

16 strips cooked bacon

1. Melt butter in saucepan. Stir in flour, cook, stirring occasionally, until fragrant, about 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add cream and milk; cook over medium heat, stirring, until thick, about 10 minutes. Stir 3 tablespoons of the hot mixture, a tablespoon at a time,

into egg yolks. Stir egg yolk mixture into saucepan mixture. Stir to combine; remove from heat. Stir in Parmesan cheese.

2. Heat broiler. Arrange toasted bread on baking sheet; top with turkey, tomato slices, Gruyere cheese and white sauce. Broil until sauce bubbles, about 5 minutes; top each slice with 2 bacon strips.

Preparation time: 15 minutes, **cooking time:** 20 minutes, **makes** 8 servings.

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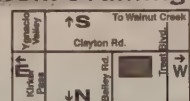
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Salmon can be your seafood of choice at a Christmas Eve dinner.

New ideas for Christmas Eve dinners

glazed salmon, courtesy of "Christina Ferrare's Family Entertaining" (St. Martin's Griffin) at this year's Christmas Eve celebration.

MUSTARD-GLAZED SALMON

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 to 4 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1/3 cup whole-grain Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 2 pound salmon fillet, cut into 8 pieces
- Additional olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- Lemon wedges for garnish
- Preheat the broiler

1 cup regular or light sour cream
Salt and pepper, to taste
Heat oil in large skillet. Add onion; cook over medium heat stirring often for 3 minutes, or until barely tender. Stir in paprika. Combine onion mixture and sour cream in medium bowl. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Cover; refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 1-2 1/2 cups.

To serve any dip in an onion bowl: Cut off top third of large yellow, red or white onion. Trim small edge off root end to make flat support. Peel onion. Scoop out inner layers, leaving outer two layers intact. Spoon dip into hollow onion.

For a free brochure with more onion information and recipes, send a stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope to the National Onion Association, Dept. N, 822 7th St., Suite 510, Greeley, CO 80631 or visit www.onions-usa.org.

CREAMY ONION DIP

1 cup regular or light sour cream
Salt and pepper, to taste
Heat oil in large skillet. Add onion; cook over medium heat stirring often for 3 minutes, or until barely tender. Stir in paprika. Combine onion mixture and sour cream in medium bowl. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Cover; refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 1-2 1/2 cups.

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A hot toddy to warm your chilly body

BY LISA GUTIERREZ
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Making a hot toddy at home is simple. To warm you to the idea, we gathered recipes from the Internet and Kansas City-area residents Marty Sullivan, a manager at the Melting Pot, and Maria Teresa Mendez-Quick, Kansas City, who shared her family's recipe for Mexican hot chocolate.

A BEACH WARMER

3/4 ounce Chambord
3/4 ounce Kahlua
6 ounces hot chocolate
Mix together. Top with whipped cream and sprinkle with freshly ground chocolate. Makes 1 serving.

CHOCOLATE MEXICANO

4 cups water
2 sticks cinnamon, broken into small pieces
7-10 ounces Mexican chocolate
12-ounce can evaporated milk
Sugar, to taste
In a saucepan, bring water and cinnamon to a boil. Let boil 2 minutes; lower heat. Add Mexican chocolate and mix until dissolved. Add evaporated milk and let mixture cook another 2 to 3 minutes; don't let it boil over. Add sugar to taste. Froth the mixture using a wire whisk, holding the whisk upright and

twirling it between your hands. Makes 5 to 6 servings.

Recipe from Maria Teresa Mendez-Quick, Kansas City.

HOT CHOCOLATE TO DIE FOR

12 ounces fine chocolate
1 teaspoon butter (not margarine)
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup half-and-half
Mini marshmallows
Melt the chocolate, butter and vanilla in a double boiler. When just smooth, stir in the cream. Top with freshly whipped cream and mini marshmallows. Makes 1 serving.

HOT BUTTERED COW

1 pound brown sugar
1/4 pound soft butter
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon mace
1/2 teaspoon allspice
Pinch of salt
Beat sugar and butter together until thoroughly creamed and fluffy. Beat in vanilla and spices. Chill. For each cup to be served, place 1 1/2 teaspoons batter in a preheated mug. (You can also add 1 1/2 ounces

of dark rum and 1/2 ounce of gold or white rum at this point. Stir well.) Fill with hot milk and serve.

Recipe from www.recipesource.com

CRANBERRY HOT TODDIES

4 tangerines
1/2 cup whole cloves
3 quarts pure, unsweetened cranberry juice (if unavailable, use cranberry juice cocktail and omit the sugar called for)
2 cups sugar, or to taste
3 cups amber rum, if desired
Cut tangerines crosswise into 1/4-inch-thick rounds and remove seeds. Stud rind of each tangerine round with four or five cloves. In a large saucepan simmer cranberry juice, tangerine rounds and sugar, covered, 5 minutes. Stir in rum. Serve toddies with clove-studded tangerine rounds in heatproof glasses. Makes 16, one-cup servings.

Recipe from Gourmet magazine.

CAFE FIX

1/2 ounce Bailey's Irish Cream
1/2 ounce Kahlua
1/2 ounce Frangelico
6 ounces fresh-brewed coffee
Mix together
Makes 1 serving.
Recipe from The Melting Pot.

Cranberries

FROM PAGE 2

to blend. Simmer another 15 minutes until the mixture is thick. Remove from the heat and cool completely. Cover and refrigerate until chilled.

In a nonstick saucepan, combine 3/4 cup sugar and 2 3/4 cup milk. Bring the milk just to boiling to scald. In a small mixing bowl, whisk the remaining milk, egg yolks and remaining 1/4 cup cornstarch until smooth.

Add 1/2 cup of the scalded milk to the egg yolk mixture, stirring constantly. Add egg yolk mixture into the scalded milk. Bring the mixture to a boil and cook 3 minutes or until the mixture is thick, stirring constantly.

Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the vanilla and butter. Pour the filling into the pastry shells. Cover each pie with plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator. Chill the pie completely, 2 hours.

Using an electric mixer, whip the egg whites with the remaining sugar until stiff.

Spoon the cranberry mixture over each of the pies. Top each pie with the meringue. Place the pie in the oven and bake at 375

degrees for 4 to 6 minutes or until golden. Remove from the oven and cool.

Makes 8 servings
Recipe from Emeril Lagasse.

CRANBERRY TURKEY PIZZA

3 sliced shallots
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 cup fresh cranberries
1 orange, zested and juiced
1 tablespoon minced gingerroot
Salt and black pepper
2 small ready-made pizza crusts
1 spicy Italian turkey sausage, casing removed and crumbled
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1/2 cup grated Monterey Jack cheese

Hot pepper flakes

Heat oven to 350 degrees.

In a small saute pan, saute shallots in olive oil. Add cranberries, orange zest, orange juice and gingerroot.

Bring to a boil and let cook until reduced to half the original volume. Check for seasoning. Cool slightly.

Place cooled cranberry sauce on pizza crust, add turkey sausage, Parmesan, Monterey Jack, and hot pepper flakes. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes. Make sure the sausage is cooked through.

Makes 2 servings
Recipe from Ming Tsai, TV Food Network.

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Up into onions

Onions and healthy party shouldn't be something to avoid. Just dip into a tasty onion. Onions provide flavonoids, an antioxidant. Antioxidants are compounds that help prevent damage to cells.

The creamy onion dip recipe is from the National Onion Association:

CREAMY ONION DIP
1 cup regular or light sour cream
Salt and pepper, to taste
Heat oil in large skillet. Add onion; cook over medium heat stirring often for 3 minutes, or until barely tender. Stir in paprika. Combine onion mixture and sour cream in medium bowl. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Cover; refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 1-2 1/2 cups.

To serve any dip in an onion bowl: Cut off top third of large yellow, red or white onion. Trim small edge off root end to make flat support. Peel onion. Scoop out inner layers, leaving outer two layers intact. Spoon dip into hollow onion.

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Taste of home: A holiday feast re-creates the old country flavors of Scandinavia

BY WILLIAM RICE
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Christmas is fast upon us and in Christian ethnic communities across our land, traditional holiday decorations, sheet music and recipes are being dusted off and readied to play their roles in the season's festivities.

Among the most beguiling of celebrations are those held by people of Scandinavian descent. The images of the old country conjured up by Swedes, Danes and Norwegians living here are idyllic: snow-covered vistas punctuated by fir trees, bright red and green clothing, solemn church services and joyous receptions held by candlelight, buffet tables piled high with food and celebratory toasts accompanied by sips of the forceful wine punch known as glogg.

In recent years, however, many holiday celebrations have become muted as residents of formerly tight-knit communities dispersed or died while few new immigrants arrived to take their places. Bucking this trend, Larry and Patty Anderson are inviting people to join them at their Chicago restaurant, Tre Kronor, at dawn on Dec. 13, for the feast of Santa Lucia, a celebration featuring saffron-flavored buns and coffee that announces the start of the holiday season. In case you miss it, the Santa Lucia buns will be available until mid-January.

The restaurant also will offer a "jubelbord." This is a no-holds-barred dinner feast with separate buffet tables dedicated to herring, smoked salmon and other cold seafood; smoked meats, cheeses and fruit; hot food including sausages, meatballs, pork roast and lutefisk; salads, breads and desserts.

A young couple with a generous supply of energy, winning personalities and a devotion to cooking, the Andersons have made their small storefront property into a paragon of a neighborhood restaurant. It even offers exemplary service and moderate prices.

Both were in their 20s with only limited restaurant experience when they were offered Tre Kronor a decade ago. Five trips to Scandinavia and three children later, they are firmly established as members

of the community. They estimate that about a quarter of their customers come from within the heavily Swedish neighborhood that also encompasses the Swedish Covenant Hospital, some of them several times a week.

Not content to produce cliché-filled menus and tired reproductions of Swedish-American fare, the couple insists on using fresh, high-quality ingredients and gradually has introduced contemporary salads, sandwiches and sauces. Duck is served medium-rare, fresh fish is moist and gently seasoned, desserts are prepared with flair.

Still, the most popular items are the classics, including Swedish pancakes with falu-korv (smoked sausage) at breakfast, quiche at lunch (a favorite in the old country, where it is known as "pie") and "Norwegian" meatballs at dinner. Patty is Norwegian and so are her meatballs; Larry is very Swedish. Let it be noted there is considerable international cooking competition in the Tre Kronor kitchen.

SANTA LUCIA BUNS

1 teaspoon saffron strands
4 teaspoons dry yeast
½ cup warm water
½ cup sugar, plus 2 tablespoons for topping
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup warm milk
½ cup melted unsalted butter
4 eggs
½ cup chopped raisins
5 to 6 cups unbleached all-purpose flour

1. Toast saffron threads in a small, dry skillet placed in a 275-degree oven 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat, crush threads and set aside.

2. In a large mixing bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Let rest 5 minutes.

3. In a separate bowl, combine ½ cup sugar, salt, crushed saffron, milk and melted butter. Add to yeast mixture. Lightly beat 2 eggs and add to yeast; add raisins. Stir in flour, 1 cup at a time, to form a dough. Reserve ½ cup.

4. Turn dough out onto a floured surface. Knead until the dough feels smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes, adding only as much of the remain-

ing flour as necessary to keep the dough from sticking.

5. Transfer dough to a greased bowl, cover with plastic wrap and set aside at room temperature to rise until doubled, about 2 hours, or refrigerate up to 24 hours.

6. Return dough to work surface and divide it into 24 equal pieces. Roll each piece into an 8- to 9-inch rope, then shape each rope into a figure 8 or curled S and place on a greased baking sheet. Keep buns evenly spaced. Set aside at room temperature to rise until doubled, about 30 minutes.

7. Heat oven to 375 degrees. In a small dish, beat the remaining eggs with 2 tablespoons water. Brush the buns with the egg wash and sprinkle evenly with remaining 2 tablespoons sugar. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes until golden brown. Transfer buns to wire racks to cool. Serve warm or at room temperature. Freeze leftover buns.

Makes two dozen.

GLOGG

2 bottles red wine
Peel of 2 oranges
2 sticks cinnamon
1 cup raisins
10 cloves
1 two-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and cut in half lengthwise
1 teaspoon cardamom seeds
½ cup brandy
½ cup sliced blanched almonds

1. In a large, non-aluminum pan, heat wine with orange peels, cinnamon sticks and raisins. Tie cloves, ginger and cardamom in cheesecloth. When wine boils, reduce heat, add the spice bag and simmer, partially covered, for 30 minutes.

2. Strain the wine. Remove spice bag, orange peels and cinnamon from the strainer and discard. Reserve raisins. When wine is cool, add the brandy. Using a funnel, pour glogg into wine bottles, cover and refrigerate until party time.

3. Reheat glogg without boiling. Ladle into small cups, add 1 teaspoon each raisins and almonds and serve.

Makes eight to 10 servings.

Note: For non-alcoholic glogg, use non-alcoholic wine and omit brandy.



TAKE A DIP AT DINNER: Fondue-style beef is cooked and enjoyed in minutes flat.

Start the party with a hands-on dinner

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Perfect for entertaining or an impromptu family dinner, this fun, fondue-style meal gets all diners in on the action of preparing their dishes. They cook their skewers full of meats and vegetables right at the table.

Enjoy this interactive recipe, courtesy of "Fondue" (Periplus), by Robert Carmack.

SOY-MARINATED BEEF IN RICE WINE

3 pounds beef flank (skirt) steak, trimmed

For marinade:
1 teaspoon ground (powdered) ginger

1 teaspoon dry (powdered) mustard

1 tablespoon molasses or golden syrup

1/2 cup soy sauce

1/4 cup peanut oil

3 cloves garlic, finely chopped

Vegetable crudités of choice
3 to 5 cups rice wine or sake
Curried mayonnaise or other dipping sauces of choice

Steamed rice, green salad and Asian pickles, for serving (optional)

Thinly slice beef, cutting across the grain.

In a large, shallow bowl, stir together all the marinade ingredients and toss with the beef. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or overnight.

When ready to serve, drain meat and arrange it on a platter.

Arrange vegetables on a separate platter.

Fill a stoneware or enameled cast-iron pot two-thirds full with water.

At the table, heat to a simmer.

Secure meat and vegetables onto skewers, letting the ends hang over the pot.

Plunge each skewer into the pot and cook strips of meat 2 minutes, cubes 3 to 4 minutes, depending on the size.

Cook vegetables 3 to 4 minutes. Drain and dip into bowls of sauce.

Accompany with steamed rice, green salad, if desired, Asian pickles, if desired.

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BY MICHAEL DRESSER
THE BALTIMORE SUN

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most ports — call it lightly sweet. What distinguishes it are the strong, gripping flavors of almonds, orange and caramel. It would be perfect to serve after a Thanksgiving feast along with a lightly sweet, nut-based dessert — maybe a not-too-sweet pecan pie

or roasted chestnuts. Or before the meal as an aperitif. Serve cool but not cold. And if you're looking for a holiday gift under \$20, this fits the bill.

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A moist slice of sweet potato yam pecan pie may be a treat the whole family will love.

A yummy yam pecan pie for the holidays

NAPS
How sweet it is—a scrumptious sweet potato, that is. One of nature's most versatile vegetables, the sweet potato, or yam, can be an easy addition to many meals and a yummy way to include more vegetables in your family's diet. For a tasty dessert, try adding sweet potatoes to pecan pie. You get the added benefits of this nutritious vegetable without foregoing flavor.

This delicious pie is easy to prepare and can be made year 'round, either with fresh or canned sweet potatoes:

YAM PECAN PIE

- 1 refrigerated 9-inch pie crust
- 1 (15 ounces) can yams (sweet potatoes) drained and mashed or 1 cup fresh yams, cooked and mashed
- 2 large eggs, divided
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

3 large egg whites
2/3 cup dark corn syrup
1/2 cup sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
2/3 cup pecans, chopped
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a mixing bowl, blend together yams, 1 egg, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Spread evenly on bottom of pie crust. In a mixing bowl, beat together remaining egg, egg whites, corn syrup, sugar and vanilla until mixture is frothy. Stir in pecans.

Carefully spoon mixture over yam layer. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes until filling is set around edges or a knife inserted halfway between the center and edge comes out clean. Cool and serve. Makes 8 servings. For more yam recipes and nutritional facts, visit the Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission Web site at www.sweetpotato.org.

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It's like a new recipe book each week: Shopping Plus

Fill up your cookie jars as the busy but fun-filled holidays get under way

Cookie party: Friends and one basic recipe — dozens of cookies

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's a delectable dilemma, trying to decide which cookies to make from the variety of recipes at hand.

Most of us will want to bake the favorites that everyone knows and expects. Consider trying some variations, too. Here are a few that may tempt an excursion, or two or three, beyond the usual baking repertoire.

Sherry Yard, executive pastry chef of Spago, Los Angeles, and winner of the 2002 James Beard award for outstanding pastry chef, offers a couple of new recipes she has created. Each has flair but neither will tax the cook's skills too severely.

Her cookies are a sugar-plum ginger cookie and a butter cardamom cookie. "The exotic spices harmonize well with the rich taste of butter," Yard says, "adding a whole new flavor dimension to the traditional holiday cookie."

BUTTER CARDAMOM COOKIES

¾ cup and 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 cups confectioners' sugar
2 teaspoons cardamom
4 eggs
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
Preheat oven to 325 F.

In a mixing bowl, cream together the butter, confectioners' sugar and cardamom for 3 minutes using a paddle attachment. Slowly add the eggs, scraping down after each addition. Add flour and salt. Remove the dough, and pipe or spoon into quarter-size drops onto a parchment-lined or nonstick cookie sheet. Space ½ inch apart. Bake 10 to 11 minutes. Cookies should have a golden color.

Preparation 15 minutes, baking time 20 to 22 minutes, makes 32 cookies.

Recipe by Sherry Yard, for the American Butter Institute.

Bar-type cookies are handy to make and pass around, and carry well without breaking. These moist, chewy, gingerbread-flavored cookies are topped with almonds and an icing drizzle.

SUGAR-PLUM GINGER COOKIES

¾ cup and 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 cups confectioners' sugar
4 eggs
2¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1¼ cups dried plums (finely chopped)
Ginger Glaze:
1 cup confectioners' sugar
2 tablespoons ginger juice (see note)

Stir together in a small bowl. Preheat oven to 325 F. In a mixing bowl, cream together butter and confectioners' sugar for 3 minutes using a paddle attachment. Slowly add the eggs, scraping down after each addition. Add flour and salt. Fold in the chopped plums.

Remove the dough from the mixer. Pipe or spoon into quarter-size drops on a parchment-lined or nonstick cookie sheet. Space ½ inch apart. Bake for 10 to 11 minutes, turn sheet pan around, and continue to bake for 10 to 11 more minutes.

Cookies should have a golden color around the edge and a chewy center. While the cookies are still hot, brush with ginger glaze.

Preparation 20 minutes, baking time 20 to 22 minutes, makes 32 cookies.

Cook's tips: The cookies can be baked in advance or same day. If made in advance, reheat for 1 minute and glaze. For ginger juice: Grate fresh ginger and squeeze out juice; you can press chopped ginger in a garlic press to extract juice.

Recipe by Sherry Yard, for the American Butter Institute.

SPICED ALMOND BARS
1 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
4 tablespoons (½ stick) 70 percent vegetable-oil spread, softened
2 tablespoons orange marmalade (spreadable fruit)
1 egg white
¼ teaspoon almond extract
1¼ cups all-purpose flour
½ cup wheat germ, any flavor
2½ teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 to 2 teaspoons fat-free milk
1/3 to ½ cup sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 325 F. Spray two cookie sheets with cooking spray.

To make bars: In large bowl of electric mixer, beat until well blended brown sugar, vegetable-oil spread and marmalade. Add egg white and ¼ teaspoon almond extract; beat well. In medium bowl, combine flour, wheat germ, pumpkin pie spice and baking soda; mix well. Add to mixture in mixer bowl in three portions; mix well.

Gather dough into a ball; divide into four equal parts. Shape each part into a 12-inch log. Place two logs 5 inches apart on each cookie sheet. With hands, flatten each log into a strip about 2½ inches wide. Brush with 1 to 2 teaspoons milk; sprinkle with almonds.

Bake 11 to 13 minutes or just until set. (Cookies should be soft. Do not overbake.) Cool 5 minutes on cookie sheet. Cut diagonally into 1½-inch-wide strips. Cool completely on wire rack.

To make icing: Combine powdered sugar, milk and almond extract in small bowl, adding enough milk for desired consistency; mix until smooth. Drizzle icing over cooled bars. Let stand until set. Store tightly covered.

Makes 3 dozen bars.

Recipe for AP from Kretschmer Wheat Germ.

Spritz cookies are shaped with a cookie press. Here's a simple recipe for orange spritz cookies that have a pleasingly different light orange tang and nutty crunch.

Olive oil is an ingredient of choice cookies are using nowadays, as here in a recipe for chocolate peanut-butter fudge cookies. The tester used crunchy peanut butter, but says any kind will be fine; the olive oil used was a California oil with a buttery taste.

CHOCOLATE PEANUT-BUTTER FUDGE COOKIES
1 cup peanut butter
6 tablespoons olive oil
1 cup regular granulated sugar
1 cup packed brown sugar
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
2/3 cup cocoa powder
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

Cream peanut butter, oil and sugars. Add eggs and vanilla. Mix well. In a separate bowl, combine cocoa, flour, baking soda and salt. Stir together. Add to the creamed mixture, kneading with back of spoon to moisten the dry ingredients. Dough will be soft and somewhat crumbly.

Form the dough into balls and place onto cookie sheet. Flatten into discs. Bake 8 to 9 minutes or until cookies are set on the sheet.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies. Recipe from Lodestar Farms-Olive Oil (on the Web: <http://www.lodestar-farms.com>).

EASY MIX COOKIES
Basic Dough:
2 cups butter, softened
1 cup sugar
4 cups flour
Mix butter and sugar until well blended. Stir in flour.

Roll, shape or cut dough as desired into about 2-in. pieces. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake at 350°F for 10-14 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on cookie sheet 5 minutes. Remove cookies and cool on wire racks.

Makes about 3 dozen cookies (recipe can be halved or doubled)

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Easier appetizers: Don't sweat the small stuff — enjoy your holiday get-together

By LATHA THOMAS
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

For those of us who are slow learners, the holidays are a time to relax and enjoy the company of friends and family. For those who work for weeks to prepare the perfect holiday cocktail gatherings, the holidays are a time to sweat the small stuff.

Whether you're a party planner or a party guest, the holidays are a time to enjoy the company of friends and family. For those who work for weeks to prepare the perfect holiday cocktail gatherings, the holidays are a time to sweat the small stuff.

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Or it could include an antipasto platter, loaded with purchased marinated artichoke hearts, roasted bell peppers, hard Italian salami and marinated mushrooms. Maybe a platter of smoked salmon or whitefish.

Aloni says that the "have fun" element is the most important.

"The host is the leader of the pack at a party," she says. "If you're relaxed and having fun, everyone will have fun."

Here are some of her tips:

Plan, plan, plan. Don't include anything that requires work after guests arrive.

Start with a small party of eight to 10 guests.

Plan a combination of individual "by the piece" bite-size appetizers and "bulk" guests-serve-themselves appetizers.

Avoid appetizers that are crumbly, drippy or larger than one bite.

For more information, check out Aloni's Web site at www.secretsfromacaterer.com.

SUN-DRIED TOMATO AND PESTO TORTA

For sun-dried tomato layer:

1 1/3 cups drained sun-dried tomatoes (packed in olive oil), room temperature; see cook's notes

1/3 cup tomato paste

1/3 cup cream cheese, room temperature, divided use

For pesto layer:

1-1/2 cups tightly packed fresh basil leaves (3-4 bunches)

1/4 cup pine nuts, lightly toasted

1/4 cup chopped garlic

1 teaspoon lemon juice

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1/3 cup cream cheese, room temperature

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon white pepper

For cream cheese layer:

12 ounces cream cheese, room temperature

4 ounces sweet butter, room temperature

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon white pepper

Special equipment: Piping bag (at least 2; 3 would be better) with large tip

Optional for serving: Basil leaves

For serving: Good crackers or sliced baguette

Cook's notes: If you use dry-packed sun-dried tomatoes, which frequently have brighter flavor than oil-packed, rehydrate them before measuring by placing in microwave-safe bowl, covering with water and heating on high 60 seconds. Let tomatoes rest in water about 15 minutes. Drain well and they will be ready to use.

Procedure:

1. Line large mixing bowl, charlotte mold, springform pan or any other attractively shaped 2-quart container with 1 smooth sheet plastic wrap, with 3- to 4-inch overhang on both sides. Since torta retains form of whatever it is made in, you can be very creative with your final presentation by choosing an unusual mold.

2. Prepare three layers: For tomato layer, put drained tomatoes in food processor fitted with metal blade; pulse to chop. Add tomato paste and 2 tablespoons cream cheese. Process until almost smooth. Add remaining cream cheese; process until well-combined. Some tomato bits will remain in small pieces. Set aside.

3. Prepare pesto layer: Rinse basil and remove stems and any discolored leaves. Dry leaves thoroughly. Put pine nuts, garlic, lemon juice, olive oil and basil leaves in food processor fitted with metal blade. Pulse to puree basil and nuts. Add Parmesan, cream cheese, salt and white pepper; pulse to combine. Set

aside.

4. Prepare cream cheese layer: Place cream cheese and butter in mixing bowl of electric mixer. Mix on low speed. When butter has been completely incorporated into cream cheese, mix in salt and pepper.

5. To assemble: Spoon one-half cup tomato mixture in bottom of prepared container. Tap container gently on the counter to spread. Place basil pesto mixture in pastry bag fitting with large, plain tip. Gently pipe solid layer in tight spiral moving from center out until you have made a layer about one-half-inch thick. Repeat this process next with cream cheese mixture. Tap container gently on counter as you fill, to eliminate air pockets between the layers.

6. Alternate red, green, white; red, green, white until bowl is filled. Smooth top layer with spatula and fold over plastic wrap to cover. Cover with another sheet of plastic wrap; refrigerate at least 24 hours or as long as 1 week.

7. Select serving platter large enough to hold torta with at least 6-inch border; this is the space for crackers or bread. Remove plastic wrap on top. Grab corners of plastic wrap underneath torta and use as handles to gently tug torta loose from pan. When torta is loosened, invert your serving platter on container and then turn platter and con-

tainer right side up. Lift off container and gently peel plastic wrap off torta.

8. Clusters of fresh basil or other greens look beautiful tucked around the base of the torta. If you are not going to serve immediately, loosely drape plastic wrap over whole platter. Serve with cracker or sliced baguette.

Makes 1 large torta, about 25 servings

Source: "Secrets From a Caterer's Kitchen" by Nicole Aloni (HP Books, \$18.95)

HOT BUTTERED RUM

1 pound dark brown sugar

1/2 pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature

1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

For serving:

Orange peel strips

Cinnamon sticks

Hot water

Dark rum

Procedure:

1. In food processor fitted with metal blade or electric mixer, process brown sugar, butter and spices until creamy. Place in crock or bowl. Cover and refrigerate up to 3 weeks.

2. To serve, place heaping tablespoon of batter in mug, along with strip of orange peel and cinnamon stick. Add 3/4 cup boiling-hot water and a jigger (3 tablespoons) dark rum. Stir to blend.

Makes 3 cups batter, about 40 servings.

Source: "Secrets From a Caterer's Kitchen" by Nicole Aloni (HP Books, \$18.95)

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CHERYL COHN, MA, Certified Clinical Master Hypnotherapist

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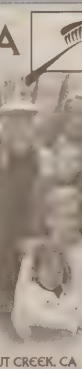
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Cheryl Cohn is a Certified Clinical Master Hypnotherapist and Reiki Master who holds a Masters degree in Education. Her first endeavor into the realm of Hypnotherapy began in 1987. As an educator she feels that it is her job to teach you about the benefits and the value of hypnosis and dispel the myths surrounding this field. Hypnotherapy is a health tool, not a magic wand that controls your mind. Cheryl just returned from Virginia where she had the opportunity to study under Michael Newton, Ph.D., Master Hypnotherapist and author of *Journey of the Soul* and *Destiny of the Soul*. Her practice, SANDCASTLES will

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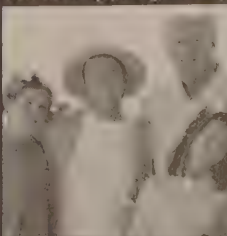
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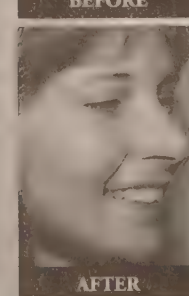
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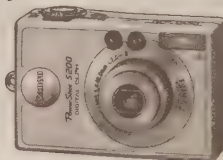
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Around Oakland



Toys, toys and more toys for kids and the kid in you

At this wonderful time of year, tempting toys bring out the child in everyone. Here's a look at some new toys along with classic favorites.

Puppets by Folkmanis

Folkmanis, an Emeryville-based company, is crawling with creatures. These adorable animal puppets come in many sizes and are plush animals including dinosaurs, porcupines. There are even fantasy animals including a griffin, plus a line of other fun items. Finger puppet series and elves are ready to dance around, too. Visit Folkmanis.com or touch them at several local retailers, including Toy World, Ecology Center Bookstore and Sweet Dreams in Berkeley.

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"Look Mom, I did it all by myself!" Every parent has heard these simple words come from their children, glowing with pride after they've displayed independence for the first time. It's a magic moment



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that most parents try to bolster, hoping to build on their children's newfound achievements. It was these simple words, spoken by her then 2-year-old son, that inspired Jill Avery-Zuleeg — along with two friends, former colleagues and both mothers themselves — to come up with a creative and innovative new idea that would reinforce their children's steps towards self-confidence and responsibility — where children teach children in a new in-

novative, entertaining, and educational video series. The result was "All By Myself" — a self-help video series for children.

Humane Society's education division offers fun & educational books for kids

The National Association for Humane and Environmental Education

See TOYS, Page 4

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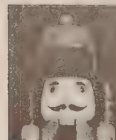
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Toys

FROM PAGE 3

(NAHEE), youth education division of the Humane Society of the U.S., has just released the Color Me KIND Set, a trio of coloring books that teach children about kindness and respect for animals, responsible pet ownership, and safety around dogs.

Each 32-page book features both English and Spanish text and large, easy-to-color pictures. Price: \$8 set or \$3 each, shipping in-



BACHMANN

THE NEWEST TRAIN MODELS have enough digital bells and whistles to satisfy the most die-hard technophile.

cluded (expect to receive within 8 days of order)

Also perfect for holiday gift giving is NAHEE's Pocket Pack, a trio of pocket-sized books that make reading and natural science a blast

with kid-friendly formats and quirky facts about animals. Pocket Pack includes: KIND News Book of Critter Clues, fun and tricky clues to 30 wild animals and pets.

Answer keys reveal the identi-

ties of mystery critters plus facts about their behavior, history and habitats; KIND News Book of Critter Views with illustrations and amazing tales from the animal world; and Dr. Kind Answers Kids'

Questions About Animals, which addresses proper pet care and wildlife issues. Price: \$7 set or \$2.50 each shipping included. Order online at www.nahee.org, by phone at 800-434-8666.

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These aren't your father's toy trains

Technology and nostalgia collide in this season's most sought after gifts — trains. Here's are suggestions from one train expert: Bachmann's HO-scale Monoplane Train Set (\$200): For the mogul of your life, consider a guide to setting up the ideal toy train under the Christmas tree. A toy train on Christmas morning evokes magical holiday memories of simpler times. But the newest models have enough digital bells and whistles to satisfy

See TOYS, Page 5

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Toys

FROM PAGE 4

the most die-hard technophile. Or, Kalmbach Publishing's "Toy Train Memories" by John Grams (\$29.95), a six-chapter chronicle of Christmas holidays past and present. Then there's Micro-train's N-scale Good Humor commemorative box car (\$23.50), for anyone who remembers the thrill of chasing the ice-cream man down the street, and Walther's HO-scale Amtrak Trainline Luxury Liner Diesel Passenger Set (\$159.98), which brings the thrill of riding the big rails right into your living room.

World's Greatest Hobby's Web site has information about the latest advances in model railroading, including: Advanced digital sound systems that replicate real train sounds, non-toxic smoking exhausts for steam locomotives and diesels, wireless remote controls for both trains and elements of your layout, operating multiple trains per track independently, software that enables you to design your miniature railroad empire and control it from a PC. Visit www.great-hobby.com.

MTV KaraokeVision

This karaoke machine offers a rare chance to cast the impression of your favorite rock star or pop diva onto video by recording your own home karaoke music video with you as the star. KaraokeVision connects to the home VCR and contains a video camera that captures the music performance onto VHS tape. Other features of the MTV Karaoke-Vision include automatic voice, echo and volume controls, built in speakers and AV outputs. It's \$99 at Target, Toys R Us, Best Buy and other retail stores.

Science gifts from the Exploratorium Store

San Francisco's Exploratorium is the world's first and foremost hands-on science museum. Like the Exploratorium itself, the Exploratorium Store (www.exploratorium.edu/store) is full of fascinating things to look at, play with, and learn from. Some of the over 3,000 items on display include products related to the museum's exhibits and programs. Visit the Web site — www.exploratorium.edu/store — where you'll find a large selection, organized into convenient categories. All proceeds from the Ex-

ploratorium Store support the activities of the Exploratorium. Exploratorium gift ideas include:

Edible Science stocking stuffers: This wacky science candy pack includes Edo, edible modeling clay that you can sculpt, shape, mold and eat; an Astronaut astro-freeze dry ice cream; Edible Bubbles (blow them and then catch them on your tongue), a holographic lollipop, and four assorted Shock Your Buds test tube candies, with names such as Ka-boom Rocks and Blasting Powder. \$18.90 per pack.

Fog Ring Blaster: Create your

very own weather. The Fog-Ring Blaster uses the same principle of science that causes tornadoes, hurricanes, and other naturally occurring vortices. It's also a way to explore fog-ring physics, involving the Bernoulli effect, the Coanda effect, propagation of waves through the air, and circular motion. Shoot fog rings up to 14 feet. Price \$24.90.

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See TOYS, Page 6



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Piedmont

Toys

FROM PAGE 5

microscope up to your PC at home to magnify and display microscopic objects! Save files, burn CD's of your microscopic explorations. Advanced digital imaging enables you to magnify up to 220 times actual size. The detachable camera lets you see farther than just the edge of the desk. Record both still and video and share and compare your findings with family and friends. Includes prepared slides and dissecting tools as well. \$79.90

String Thing: The Amazing String Thing is a string shooter that transforms an ordinary piece of string into a magical moving rainbow! Point it up, down, even sideways and watch as the string playfully dances in mid-air. Gently touching the string generates wave patterns and interactive shapes that seem to defy gravity. Designed by a member of the Exploratorium staff and reminiscent of one of the exhibits inside the Exploratorium. Requires 4 AA batteries (not included) or an AC adapter (String Thing has a built-in adapter jack). \$24.50

Vasa Cubes: Bundle of 3 Medium Cubes. Watch these fasci-

nating sculptures absorb and reflect light; the vivid play of subtle hues makes them appear continuously alive. They were created by a painter named Vasa, who developed techniques for working with cast, laminated acrylic forms based on simple Euclidean shapes. \$135.

"Accidental Scientist: The Inquisitive Cook" by Anne Gardiner and Sue Wilson. This is the Exploratorium's own publication, accompanying our new Accidental Scientist web pages dedicated to food and cooking at www.exploratorium.edu/cooking/. To become more creative in the kitchen, you need to learn what roles different ingredients and techniques play in recipes. "The Inquisitive Cook" provides this fundamental understanding, giving you the tools you need to modify and improve recipes, and to avoid (or recover from) cooking disasters. Black and white. \$15.

Stuff a stocking with flashcards — and add chocolate

The SAT Vocabulary Flashcards Flip-O-Matic, \$10, is a book that offers SAT test-takers a fun, convenient way to master SAT vocabulary at home, at school, or on the go. SAT Vocabulary Flip-O-Matic



CARROM COMPANY

make it easy for students to learn 500 vocabulary words that appear frequently on the SAT. These items make great stocking stuffers for today's teens.

Pop artist transforms canvas to new game line play surfaces

Old Glory flapping in the breeze, a soccer ball hitting against a player's cleat and the blades of a hockey player's skates cutting through the ice come to life on the

vibrant play surfaces of The Carrom Company's new Lightning "Pop Art Series" game line. Blending his combination of bold shapes, intense colors and vibrant scenes, pop artist Burton Morris has transformed his usual canvas to the play surface areas of 7-foot "Glory" Air-Powered Hockey, "Striker" Foosball table and "Power Forward" Dome Hockey.

The Lightning "Pop Art Series" game tables include two controllers and two Americana-themed round pucks. "Power Forward"

POP ARTIST BURTON MORRIS has created the Lightning "Pop Art Series" game tables. The tables include two controllers and two Americana-themed round pucks. "Power Forward" Dome Hockey comes with a shatterproof dome, two pucks and an electronic scoreboard.

Dome Hockey comes with a shatterproof dome, two pucks and an electronic scoreboard. An optional electronic scoreboard will be available for air-powered hockey and "Striker" foosball.

The "Pop Art Series" is a limited edition game line with only 2,500 tables being manufactured. Each game will have 250 tables that are signed and numbered by Burton Morris. Suggested retail price is \$995 to \$1,295. Call 231-845-1125 or visit www.carrom.com



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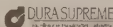
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Holiday events

Books and music make good holiday gifts

Nov. 29: Jack London Square's annual tree lighting ceremony, 5 - 7 p.m. See the details at www.jacklondonsquare.com.

Nov. 29 through Jan. 4: The Oakland Zoo's fifth annual presentation of Zoo Lights, a light display, 5:30 - 9 p.m. Monday - Thursday, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Friday - Sunday. See www.oaklandzoo.org.

Nov. 29 - Dec. 15, weekends: Dunsuir House will be open for tours, decorated to recreate the holiday season of the period from 1895-1915. Call Dunsuir House & Gardens Historic Estate, 510-615-5555, or see www.dunsuir.org.

Dec. 5: The Montclair Village Association 2002 Holiday Stroll, 5 to 8 p.m. Music, dancers, refreshments of all kinds, store sales and many other treats for the whole family. Feel free to come in a fun holiday costume. Village Tree Lighting ceremony in the Safeway parking lot at 8 p.m., www.montclairvillage.com.

Dec. 6: Third Annual Oakland Holiday Magic Celebration, Downtown Oakland, 5 - 8 p.m. at the Frank Ogawa Plaza in front of Oakland's city hall. Presented by the City of Oakland. Web site: www.shoppoakland.com.

Dec. 7: Alameda's annual tree lighting ceremony, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. This event has been a tradition in the city for over 25 years. www.ci.alameda.ca.us/arpd/events.html.

Dec. 7: Jack London Square's annual Lighted Yacht Parade, 3 - 9 p.m. with 100 boats decorated for the holiday season. Web site: www.jacklondonsquare.com.

Dec. 7: The third Annual Oakland Tribune Holiday Parade with floats, balloons, music, clowns, dancers and entertainment, noon, at 11th Street and Broadway. See www.OaklandHolidayParade.com.

Dec. 7 - 8: The Meyers House in Alameda, a house museum, will be adorned with Victorian-style holiday decorations. Call 510-528-5907. www.alamedamuseum.org/meyers.html.

Dec. 13 - 14: The Alameda Holiday Homes Tour includes several houses with a variety of holiday styles and architectural designs. Call 510-337-3241 for ticket information. The Web site is: www.alamedaholidayhometour.info.

Books from Prima Publishing

Big ones, little one, fat ones, skinny ones. All of them ready to wrap and give. Just the perfect something for the perfect someone. And Prima Publishing has just the right gift book for everyone on your readers' holiday lists.

For dads: "Opening the Xbox," written by veteran journalist Dean Takahashi, goes behind the scenes to reveal the creative thinking, dramatic infighting, cutthroat competition, and billion-dollar deals that went into Microsoft's newest creation (ISBN 0-7615-3708-2, \$24.95).

"The Intelligent Negotiator" offers practical guidance for every professional seeking to understand and master the skills of negotiation-going beyond the basics and digging into the nitty-gritty including mental preparation, poise, and presentation (ISBN 0-7615-3725-2, \$22.95).

"Weekend Dad" is for the countless fathers who aren't sure how to keep their kids occupied beyond a matinee, a fast-food restaurant, or

an amusement park (ISBN 0-7615-6362-8, \$12.95).

For moms: "As American as Apple Pie" cooks up a collection of 50 down-home all-American dishes and includes recipes plus fascinating tidbits about how these culinary favorites came to be (ISBN 0-7615-1668-9, \$12.95).

"Natural Beauty," written by spa owner and make-up artist Laura DePriest, offers an insider's look — complete with recipes — at how to save money and duplicate expensive spa treatments and salon products from the comfort of home (ISBN 0-7615-2099-6, \$10.95).

For animal lovers: "The Compassion of Dogs" celebrates the tender relationships that humans and dogs share through a collection of true stories (ISBN 0-7615-3590-X, \$22.95).

"Emergency Animal Rescue Stories" is the story of one woman's, Terri Crisp's, dedication to saving animals from both natural and man-made disasters (ISBN 0-7615-6354-7, \$14.95).

For teens with girl power: "Girl Wise," a hip, funny, smart guide,

offers advice from top experts in fields from fashion to martial arts, car repair to image consulting, psychiatry to multimedia (ISBN 0-7615-6363-6, \$12.95).

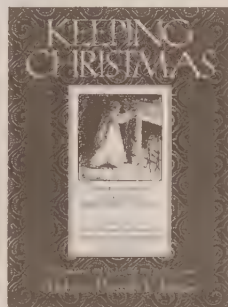
"Getting to Know the Real You" is an interactive book of quizzes and tips for young teen girls to learn about themselves, their interests, friends, boys, and life in general (ISBN 0-7615-3289-7, \$12.95).

"Bluegrass & White Snow — A Mountain Christmas" from Epic

Patty Loveless has produced a new Christmas CD, "Bluegrass & White Snow" with both traditional songs like "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World" as well as originals including "Christmas Day at my House" and "Bluegrass, White Snow." Guests on the CD include Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Trisha Yearwood, Dolly Parton and Emmylou Harris. It's produced by Epic and is now in local music stores.

"Keeping Christmas"

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See BOOKS, Page 11



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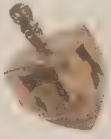


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**Christmas
Celebration**

Wednesday,
December 11th
Noon-1:00pm

**Kwanzaa
Celebration**

Wednesday,
December 18th
Noon-1:00pm

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& Friday
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Books

FROM PAGE 7

Barbara Russell Chesser, has true Christmas stories by internationally known, award-winning writers including Leo Buscaglia, Lewis Grizzard and Barbara Johnson.

Barbara Chesser shares in "A Window in the Window" how a six-year-old orphan helped his rich, elderly aunt to understand the greatest gift of all. Another author tells how a man saved the life of a college student by singing Christmas carols to her while she was in a coma — and alive, and how he spared her life in a winter storm country.

A few others: Two young children of different faiths, languages, and customs become life long friends; sometimes the most unlikely gift is to say good-bye and an unlikely gift of a polished rock becomes more valuable than gold.

Each story is with a quote by nobles such as Helen Keller, Robert Frost, Pearl Buck, Louisa May Alcott, and John Greenleaf Whittier: "The joy that you give others is the joy that comes back to you."

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"Unlocking Your Legacy"

The New York Times best-selling author Paul J. Meyer's new book, "Unlocking Your Legacy: 25 Keys for Success" (Moody Press), demonstrates the importance of thinking beyond our own lives.

Although Meyer is a multi-millionaire, he finds greater significance in the precious gift of a legacy that he received while he lived in a tent as a child. In this book, Meyer distills 50 years of experience with raising a family and at the 100 companies he started. As one of the leaders in the self-improvement industry, his publications have

reached people in 60 nations over the past 40 years.

Meyer's book answers two vital questions: "How will I be remembered?" and "Will my life impact the future?" The answers that each person gives will become his or her legacy.

"Washington wines book"

"Discovering Washington Wines" by Tom Parker (Raconteurs Press, Seattle) is the first consumer-friendly guide to America's new premium wine region. Washington is now the second largest producer of wine in the U.S. Many wine connoisseurs see the future of Ameri-

can wine in the Pacific Northwest, and specifically in Washington state.

The book covers the major wine-growing regions, appellations and leading wines by type and provides consumers with a primer on leading wineries and emerging "cult" vintners (\$16.95, ISBN: 0-9719258-05-2).

"Celebration of Christmas"

Reader's Digest has a "Celebration of Christmas" package that offers a CD, a book and a songbook, all designed to augment the holiday mood. The CD has 22 holiday songs, and the book features

sections on crafts, holiday stories and recipes, from traditional favorites such as turkey pot pie to an unusual Macadamia Biscotti, plus instructions for making a gingerbread house. The song book has music and words to well-known holiday carols and songs, \$29.95 for the set.

"Living Simultaneously: Balancing Self-Care, Personal Relationships and Work"

"Living Simultaneously:

See BOOKS, Page 12

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Books

FROM PAGE 11

Balancing Self-Care, Personal Relationships and Work by Jeffrey Patnaude explores the keys to achieving "life balance" and the joys possible once we attain it. Often, we think of ourselves as having separate lives: work life, family life, love life, spiritual life — and the list goes on. However, life is one continuous flow. Integrating our seemingly disparate spheres creates a more rewarding, creative and fulfilled existence. Here, Patnaude explores real ways to help this process by learning to flow through and around the three life circles and rewarding ourselves through play, laughter and dance.

Teddy's World

Published in time to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Teddy Bear, "Teddy's World" is a coffee table book with hundreds of color photographs of Teddy Bears. Joost Effers and Mirja de Vries have taken the photos and assembled the thick book with clever captions and comments plus great photos featuring thousands of bears. In bookstores and via Joost Effers



"TEDDY'S WORLD" is a coffee table book with hundreds of color photographs of Teddy Bears.

Books, 212-941-8671.

DK Books

From antiques to Etna, DK Publishing has every subject covered in this year's crop of holiday books. For music lovers, "Rolling with the Stones" by Wyman (\$50, ISBN: 0-789-8). As a founding member of the Stones and the group's bandleader for more than two decades, Wyman has amassed an amazing personal archive of Stones rarities — much of it never published — which combine his wry, witty remembrances with a backstage pass to decades of rock 'n' roll mayhem.

See BOOKS, Page 12



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BOOKS

FROM PAGE 12

"Elvis: A Celebration" by Mike ... (\$50, ISBN: 0-7894-8902-3). The ultimate celebration of the King of Rock 'n' Roll as seen from the archives of the Elvis Presley Estate in Graceland. It has news photographs, memorabilia, and movie clips — many never before published.

For sports fans, **"Basketballs and Shots"** (\$30, ISBN: 0-7894-8914-7). Whether it's Michael Jordan's last jump shot as a Chicago Bull, Dr. J's spectacular baseline move in the 1980 finals, or a jaw-dropping dunk by Kobe Bryant, the book shows some of the greatest plays in the world performing the most stunning, gravity-defying feats ever caught on film. There are more than 800 photographs from the NBA archives.

"Baseball's Best Shots" (\$20, ISBN: 0-7894-8915-5). Major League Baseball offers the official look on the most compelling photographs of America's favorite sport.

"NFL's Greatest" (\$20, ISBN: 0-7894-8901-5), has a forward by

Steve Sabol and hundreds of action photographs.

In the history category, **"Flight"** (\$50, ISBN: 0-7894-8910-4), covers from the early pioneers to the latest spaceflight technology, and tells the inspirational story behind humankind's conquest of the skies. Color photographs, dramatic first-hand accounts and profiles on a huge range of aircraft.

"Timelines of World History" (\$40, ISBN: 0-7894-8926-0). Designed for history aficionados, trivia buffs, or anyone with a curious mind, "Timelines of World History" presents an innovative approach to

the traditional, text-driven style of a date-by-date chronology showing what was happening on different continents simultaneously. It has more than 500 photographs and illustrations and over 25 maps covering the last 20,000 years.

"The Story of America" (\$35, ISBN: 0-7894-8903-1), is a chronicle of the nation from pre-Columbian times to the present with contributions by Pulitzer-Prize winning authors.

"Ultimate Spy" (\$30, ISBN: 0-7894-8972-4).

See BOOKS, Page 15

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on the shopping districts near you, click on www.ShopOakland.com for more information plus learn how to win two tickets on Southwest Airlines.

Kick off the holidays in downtown Oakland Holiday Magic

The spirit of the holidays will

Join this Oakland Holiday tradition. For more information go to the Web site www.OaklandHolidayParade.com.

come to Downtown Oakland on Friday, Dec. 6, 5 - 8 p.m. during the Third Annual Oakland Holiday Magic Celebration held at the Frank Ogawa Plaza in front of Oakland's city hall.

The annual downtown celebration presented by the City of Oakland officially kicks off the 2002 holiday season.

The festive evening event will feature holiday music performed by local youth, an inflatable climbing structure, a holiday train and vendors selling hot chocolate and hot cider.

Revelers in search of the perfect holiday gift will want to explore the handmade, homemade arts and crafts booths presented by the Oakland Artisans Marketplace.

Unwrapped toys for boys and girls will be collected for the Mayor's Annual Toy Drive with collection bins scattered throughout the Plaza. The evening is the perfect way to celebrate the holidays with your family

in downtown.

Oakland Holiday Parade

Don't miss the excitement of the third Annual Oakland Holiday Parade is coming to town. There will be floats, balloons, music, clowns, dancers and entertainment galore.

The parade will officially begin at noon on Dec. 7, at 11th and Broadway. The route will go up Broadway to Children's Hospital. Twelve giant helium balloons including Babar the Elephant, Sparky the Firedog, Dooley and Jester without a jingle will float above the crowd.

The parade features bands from throughout Northern California as the 200-member Fremont School Scarlet Brigade. Special guests include Miss California Stephanie Baldwin, and of course Santa Claus. Over 80 entries are expected.

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Books

FROM PAGE 13

With more than 600 full-color photographs and illustrations, detailed accounts of formerly secret operations, descriptions of spy equipment and techniques, *Ultimate Spy* is the insider's guide to the secret world of espionage.

"Firefighting" (\$30, ISBN: 0-7624-8609-0).

An innovative, vividly illustrated chronicle of humankind's struggle to subdue nature's most primal and destructive force — from Rome in 44 AD to the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001 — "Firefighting" examines history's most formidable foes, showing how each influenced the evolution of firefighting technology, equipment, and tactics.

Other titles include "Superman: The Ultimate Guide to the Man of Steel," "The Ultimate Guide to the Justice League of America," "Disney: The Ultimate Visual Guide" and "American Film Institute Desk Reference."

Photography for Dummies

If you or someone you know is dazzled by the idea of digital photography, consider any of 16 related titles by Wiley Publishing, including "Digital Photography for Dummies, 4th Edition," "Photoshop Elements for Dummies" and "Digital Photography Made, 2nd Edition." Learn how to "touch up" your images. With a digital photo, you can use image-editing software to touch up your pictures, if necessary.

Send an image to friends, family members, and clients almost instantaneously by attaching it to an email message. Create a holiday photo album or send out a digital holiday card/newsletter.

Art from the Heart at NIAD Art Center

Come to the NIAD Art Center 1777 from 2-5 p.m., 551 23rd St., Richmond, and do some holiday shopping, meet the artists and support a worthwhile program. NIAD Art Center helps developmentally disabled people by encouraging them to do art and their ceramics, paintings, drawings, jewelry, quilts and scarves are on display and available for sale. The Center's gallery is also open Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 2 through Jan. 31. Visit www.niad.org for more information.

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Oakland Ballet presents 'Nutcracker'

■ Paramount Theatre production features guest dancers Ikolo Griffin and Paunika Jones

OAKLAND BALLET

OAKLAND — Oakland Ballet will usher in the Christmas season in grand style Friday, Dec. 13 through Tuesday, Dec. 24, with the 30th anniversary of company founder Ronn Guidi's acclaimed holiday production, *Nutcracker*.

The opening night performance will coincide with the 16th annual All-Star Night at the Ballet, a performance that features a variety of Bay Area sports and media personalities on stage side-by-side with the professional company.

Oakland Ballet's will present 13 performances of the "Nutcracker" at the Paramount Theatre. The per-

formances feature live musical accompaniment by the Oakland East Bay Symphony with conductor Michael Morgan. Tickets for all performances are on sale now for \$55 — \$10 by calling Ticketmaster at 510-625-8497.

Joining the company will be two guest dancers currently with Dance Theatre of Harlem, Paunika Jones and Ikolo Griffin, formerly with San Francisco Ballet. "I am very happy to announce that our 'Nutcracker' will include these two distinguished artists," said Oakland Ballet artistic director Karen Brown. "Both these very talented dancers will be featured in principal 'Nutcracker' roles, and with our own company, are sure to provide enormous pleasure for our audience."

Oakland Ballet's "Nutcracker" has won great acclaim from the Bay Area press: "...if you're looking for

sparkle, intimacy and charm, you can't beat Oakland Ballet's 'Nutcracker' Their focus on storytelling makes it one of the best for little ones," wrote the SF Gate.

This will be the 16th year in which volunteer guest performers from Bay Area professional athletic teams serve as toy soldiers.

They fight the Mouse King, appear in the exotic Arabian Dance and in other surprise roles. All-Star Night began when the Oakland A's contacted the ballet with the unique idea of bringing together the worlds of sports and the performing arts. It has proven a powerful and highly entertaining fusion ever since.

Oakland Ballet audience members can meet the Sugar Plum Fairy and her friends after the performance at a Sweet Dreams Party. Due to their popularity, patrons are encouraged to book early for ad-



"Nutcracker" premiered in 1973 as the first ballet performance at Oakland's magnificent Art Deco Paramount Theatre following its spectacular renovation and re-opening in 1972.

mission to the Sweet Dreams Party. The cost is \$10 per individual.

To celebrate Oakland's 150th Anniversary, Oakland Ballet will offer special reduced prices to all city, public works, fire and police employees for the Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

performance. Oakland Ballet presents "Nutcracker" at the Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland.

For more information about Oakland Ballet's "Nutcracker," visit www.oaklandballet.org.

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